Buffy
the Vampire sla
JOSS WHEDON
BRAD MELTZER
SCOTT ALLIE
JANE ESPENSON
GEORGES JEANTY
KARL MOLINE

Buffy the Vampire Slayer™

SEASON 8 VOLUME 4

Following a losing battle against Twilight's insurmountable army, Buffy finds herself imbued with mysterious new superpowers that may turn the tide of this seemingly endless fight. As she tries to pick up the pieces in the aftermath, discovering allies gone missing and the unexplained massacres of Slayer squads around the globe, Buffy goes straight to Twilight himself for a confrontation that rocks the earth's foundations and reveals the identity of the Slayer's greatest foe to date!

Angel and Spike make their Season 8 debut, each with vital information that will ultimately lead Buffy back home to Sunnydale. While the Slayers fight an onslaught of demons raining down on the earth, Buffy faces the ultimate betrayal and suffers great sacrifices to put an end to Twilight and save the world from ultimate destruction. The losses will be great, and when the dust settles, everyone and everything will be different.

"Meltzer's talent speaks for itself. I wouldn't be surprised if letters started pouring in today for him to return to Season 9."

—Girls Entertainment Network

"Meltzer's take [on Buffy Season 8] definitely has the energy that I would associate with, say, Season 3 of the television series, and the art really only gets better."

—Newsarama

"The true star of this series is Georges Jeanty. He so effectively renders these characters on the page at this point that they emote all the idiosyncrasies that the television actors themselves established years ago."

—IGN

DARK HORSE BOOKS
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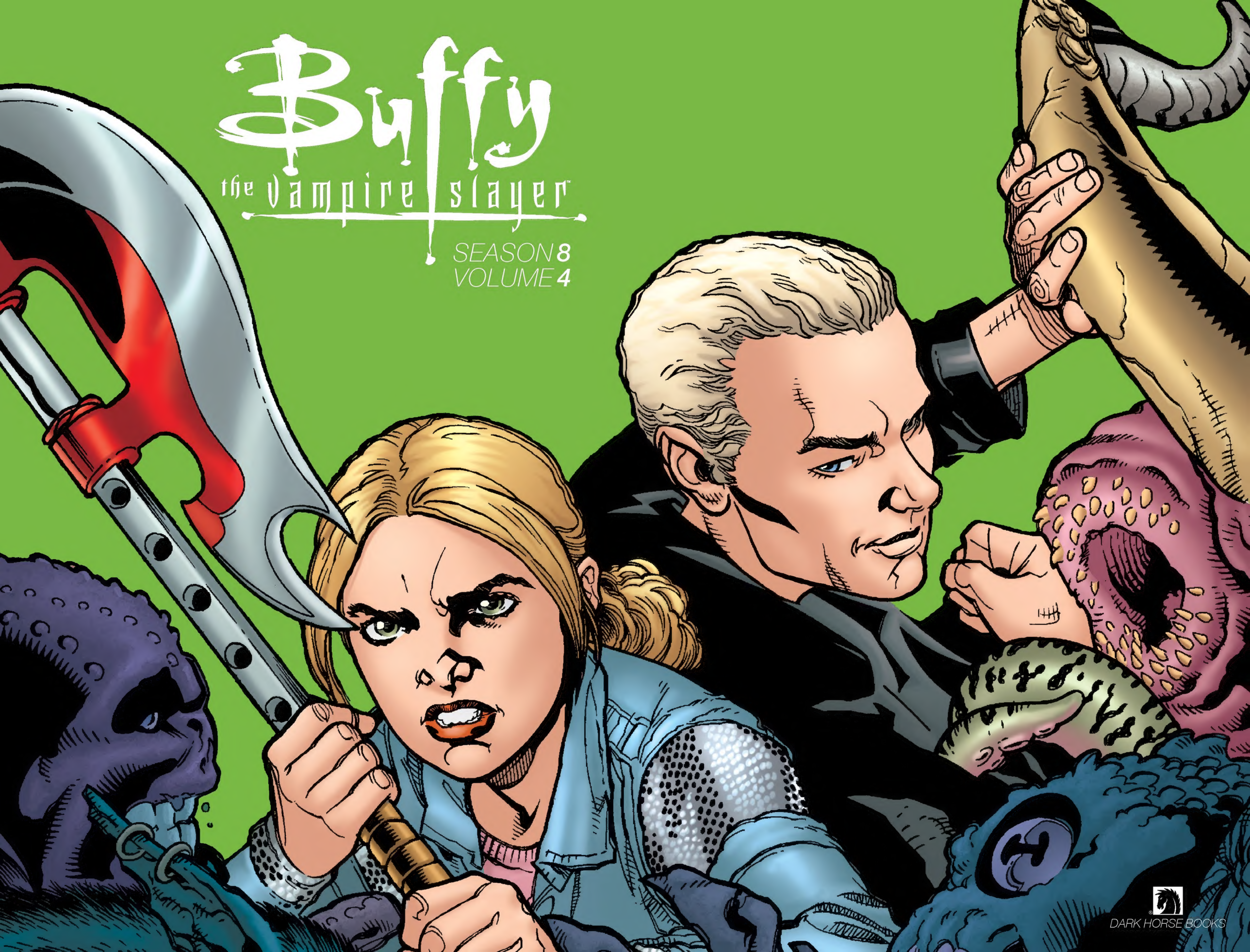
Buffy the Vampire Slayer

SEASON 8
VOLUME 4



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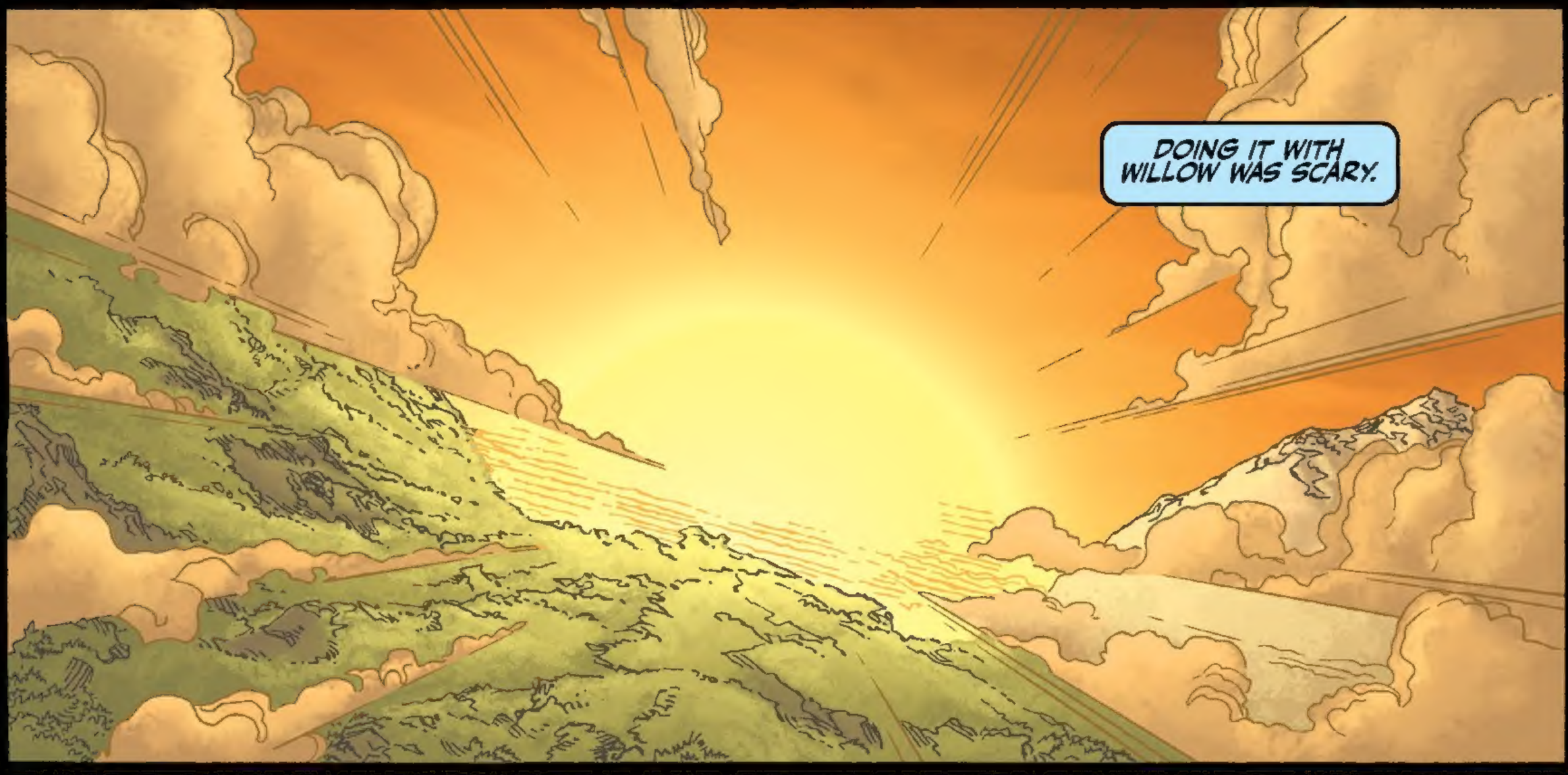
TURBULENCE



DOING IT ALONE...

WEIRD.

AND SCARY.

I FEEL STRONGER.

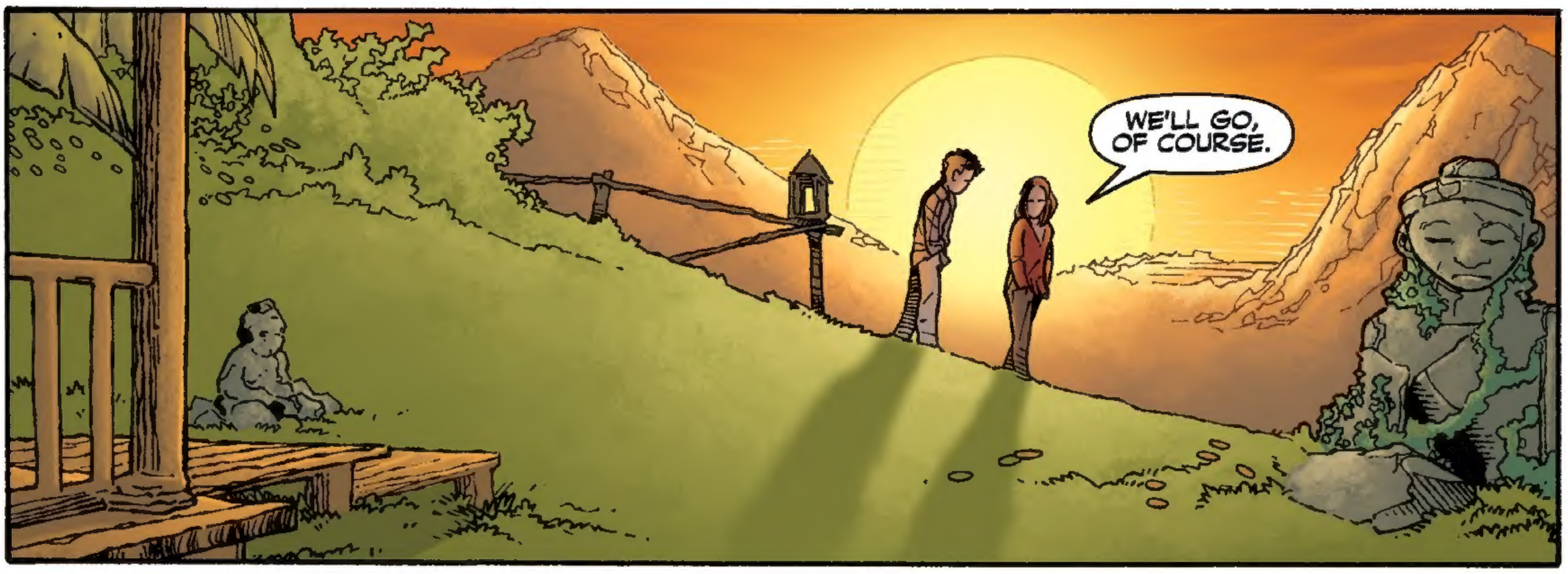
AND I'M WAY BETTER AT LANDING.

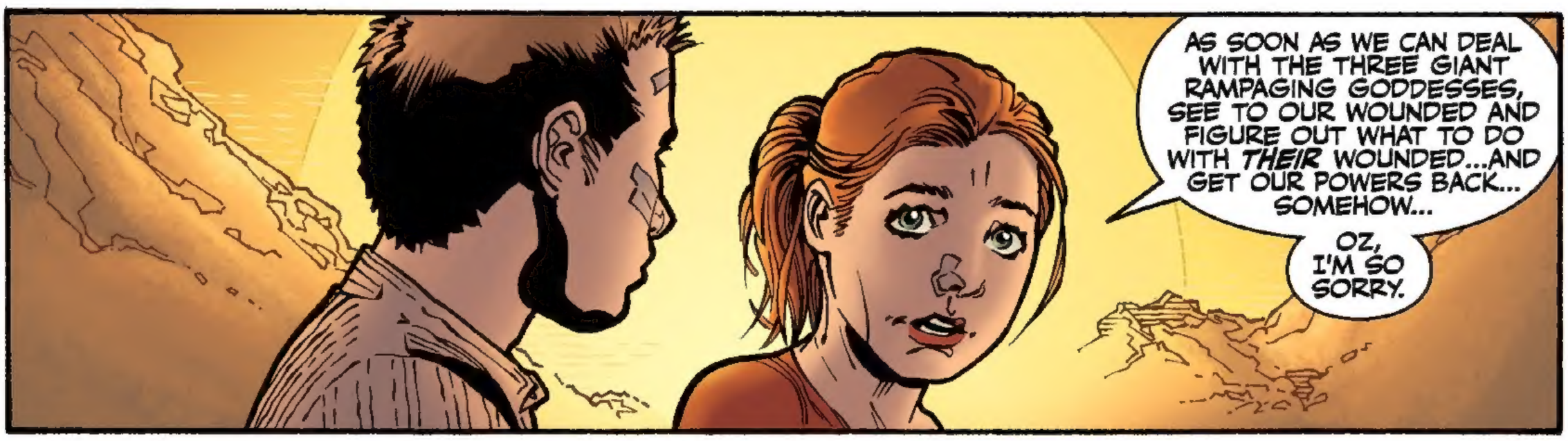
BUT WHY?

WHY NOW?

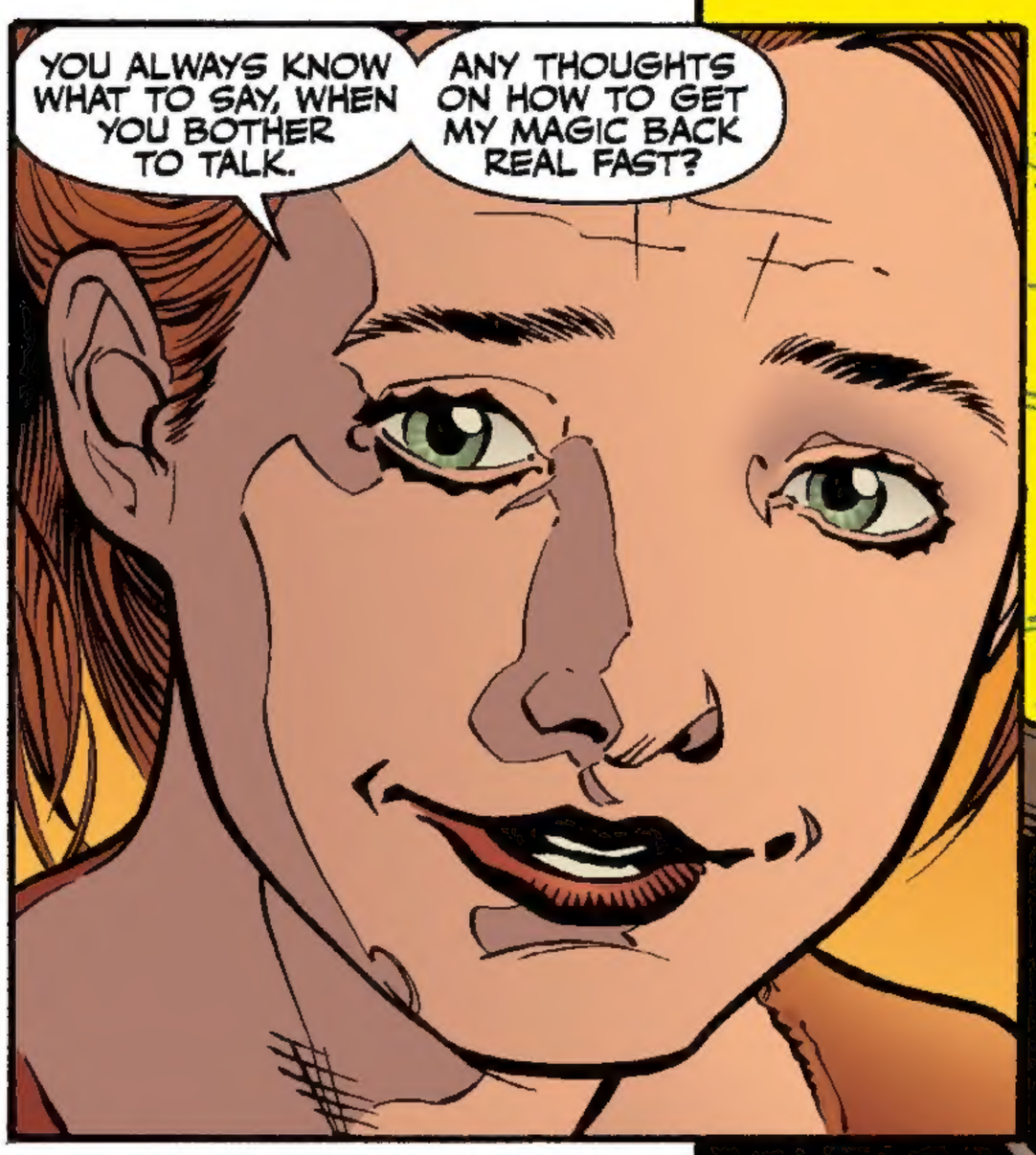
WHY DOES IT FEEL SO NATURAL...

AND WHY DO I STILL WANT TO HIDE IT?


WE'LL GO, OF COURSE.


AS SOON AS WE CAN DEAL WITH THE THREE GIANT RAMPAGING GODDESSES, SEE TO OUR WOUNDED AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH *THEIR* WOUNDED...AND GET OUR POWERS BACK... SOMEHOW...
OZ, I'M SO SORRY.

WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. BAY'S GONNA BE FINE, AND EVERYONE KNEW WHAT--
WE BROUGHT WAR TO A PLACE OF PEACE.
IT'S TIBET, WILL. YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST.


YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT TO SAY, WHEN YOU BOTHER TO TALK.
ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW TO GET MY MAGIC BACK REAL FAST?

KRA

WILLOW!

MAN...

YOU DON'T KID AROUND.

I DIDN'T DO THAT.

NO...

IT WAS...LIKE AN AFTERSHOCK. FALLOUT FROM SOME CATACLYSMIC MYSTICAL EVENT.

YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

NO...

IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET.

WILL, SIX OF OUR WICCANS JUST KEELED OVER AND *HEY* MAGIC LOOK AT YOU.

TWO OF THEM BARFED.

A TEMPORAL RIPPLE. FROM SOMETHING POWERFUL AND COMING SOON. SLAYERS?

NO CHANGE. BUT NOW WE HAVE A SHOT AT GETTING THE *ANDREWS SISTERS OF DEATH* OFF OF OZ'S LAWN.

ANDREW HAS SISTERS?

FEMALE TRIO. DESTINY'S CHILD, SHONEN KNIFE... DIXIE CHICKS!

YOU KNOW, YOU *CAN* JUST SAY THE THING YOU MEAN.

THE GIRLS SHOULD BE FINE. SEE IF THEY CAN IDENTIFY THE EVENT. I'LL WORK ON THE GODDESSES.

IF I CAN GET THEM BACK UNDERGROUND, MAYBE EVERYONE WILL BE BACK TO FULL POWER.

"PRETTY IMPRESSIVE, RIGHT?"

I'M LIKE GENERAL CUSTER WITH LONG BLOND HAIR.

GENERAL CUSTER *HAD* LONG BLOND HAIR.

SO WE *ARE* DUMBER.

BUFFY.

YOU FOUGHT A BRUTAL CAMPAIGN.

NOBODY WON, BUT NOBODY DOES. I SAW INTELLIGENCE, COURAGE, AND COMPASSION. YOU'RE TREATING THE ENEMY'S WOUNDED.

I'M PROUD OF YOU.

DID THEY GIVE YOU THE *MOST* MORPHINE?

PLUS A FEW SHOTS OF JACK, BUT I THINK I'M GOOD TO DRIVE.

SLEEP, DRUNKIE.

SIR, YES SIR.

"FOR A WHILE, THEY'LL BE LOST."

SO MUCH DESTRUCTION, SO MANY FALLEN...

FACTOR IN THE CONFUSION SPELL MY OWN WICCANS TOSSED INTO THE FIELD AND IT WILL BE HOURS BEFORE YOU ARE MISSED.

DAYS BEFORE YOU'RE SOUGHT.

BUT WHEN BUFFY REALIZES WHAT SHE'S MISSING... SUCH POWERFUL ELEMENTS IN HER MAKEUP...

HER TRUST...

HER GUILT...

AND YOUR NAME *WILL* COME BACK TO ME...

THINGS WILL START TO HAPPEN VERY QUICKLY.

THE TRUTH. AT LONG LAST, THE MANIFEST TRUTH. BUFFY WILL FINALLY SEE...

"...IF SHE IS ABLE TO SEE AT ALL."

COME ON! CAN'T YOU GET BETTER RECEPTION?

MAYBE IT'S THE MOUNTAINS.

WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE UNACCOUNTED FOR.

A BUNCH OF THEM SCATTERED INTO THE WOODS. IT'LL TAKE THEM A WHILE TO CIRCLE BACK.

WE SHOULD SEND OUT A...

...OR WAIT. WE CAN WAIT. THEY'LL SHOW.

Runt

SO, OW...

I'M BACK TO BEING SORCERESS SUPREME, BUT THESE GALS ARE STILL WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE.

IF THEY REACH A POPULATED AREA...

NO.

NO MORE.

DAAHH! WHAT AM I, A HACKY SACK?

ARE YOU A WITCH?

I'M A VAMPIRE SLAYER.

WHAT'S THAT?

JUST LIKE IT SOUNDS.

THEY SAID IF WE WERE CAPTURED, YOU'D...DO THINGS TO US. THAT YOU ALL HAVE MAGIC POWERS.

IF WE STILL DID, WE WOULD HAVE HEALED YOU BY NOW.

ARE YOU IN LOVE?

I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE IT SLOW...

I SHOULDA SAID SOMETHING AT THE DANCE, BUT...

WHAT WAS I AFRAID OF? WHAT COULD BE...

WHAT WOULD BE WORSE THAN...

JENNA ABRAMS. SHE HAS NO IDEA.

WE'RE GONNA NEED THAT BED.

HOW ABOUT YOU? HAD US WORRIED.

I'M...

I'M OKAY.

I'M TIRED OF SEEING THIS.

I'M TIRED OF *CAUSING* IT.

IT'S A WAR. YOU DIDN'T START IT.

DIDN'T I?

NOT GOING THERE AGAIN. WILLOW GOT HER POWER BACK.

THE SAME AS SHE WAS BEFORE?

ALL OF A SUDDEN.

BUT NOT... *MORE* POWER?

SHE WASN'T DARK, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. LOOK, SHE'S HANDLING OUR ROGUE GODDESSES. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY REST.

YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO, BUFF.

I'M PROUD OF YOU.

THAT'S WHAT RILEY SAID.

WELL, HE'S A BRAINY GUY.

PLUS HE'S DANGLING *STEEL*, WORKING INSIDE TWILIGHT'S CAMP.

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU SUCH A FANBOY?

YOUR ONE BOYFRIEND WHO WASN'T A PSYCHOTIC DEMON? I WAS *ALWAYS* TEAM RILEY.

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU GOT ALL TOUGH LOVE WITH ME ABOUT HIM.

LITTLE TOO LATE.

THAT'S MY MOTTO...

I'M TOO LATE AGAIN, AREN'T I?

FOR WHAT?

FOR YOU.

WHO TO THE HOW TO THE HAMMINA?

YOU AND DAWN.

OH, IS THAT A CONVERSATION THAT'S HAPPENING?

NO, IT'S FINE. DAWN'S A GROWN WOMAN, AND YOU'RE A DISGUSTING PAEDOPHILE.

CRADLE ROBBER?

WHOA!

COME ON! I AT *LEAST* GET CRADLE ROBBER...

YOU GET TO MIND YOUR OWN BEESWAX.

IT IS MY BEESWAX! SHE'S MY SISTER. AND YOU AND I...

YOU AND I WHAT? WAIT--WHAT'S *"TOO LATE AGAIN"* MEAN?

NOTHING! IT JUST... IT MEANS...

IT'S JUST...

WHAT ABOUT *ME?*

YOOOOU... HAVE FEELINGS.

AT ME.

WOULD THAT BE GOOD?

THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

IF IT WAS A BUNCH OF YEARS AGO AND YOU ACTUALLY MEANT IT.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW--

PUH.

LEAZE.

FEELINGS DEVELOP. PEOPLE CHANGE!

AND NOW YOU LIKE ME. I MADE THE LIST.

THERE'S NOT A--

HEY, THAT'S A BIG DEAL! I'M A POTENTIAL ROMANTIC INTEREST! I'M ON THE LIST-- RIGHT AFTER *BEING GAY.*

I RATE ALMOST AS GOOD AS TRYING TO CHANGE YOUR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. YOU WENT--

--THROUGH GAY--

--TO ME.

I WAS HAVING A PHASE! I'M *SUPPOSED* TO HAVE THAT PHASE!

NO! I MEAN *YES!* I MEAN IT'S BEEN... HAPPENING!

AND NOW ALL THIS COMES TO YOU RIGHT WHEN I'M KISSING YOUR SISTER. COINCIDENCE?

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SEEING YOU KISS.

OH YES IT DOES!

IT DOES BECAUSE EVEN IF YOU FELT SOMETHING BEFORE, ONCE YOU SAW US TOGETHER YOU SHOULD KNOW THE DECENT THING TO DO WOULD BE TO KEEP IT TO YOURSELF!

THAT IS THE MOST--

OH.

YEAH.

DAWN HAS LOVED ME HER WHOLE LIFE.

IT'S NOT UNWEIRD, KNOWING HER SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, AND I DO FEEL A TAD BIT HUMBERT HUMBERT...

...OR HENRY HIGGINS-- I CAN NEVER REMEMBER WHICH IS WHICH...

...BUT SHE'S GROWN. AND SHRUNK. SHE'S NOT THE SAME.

I'M KIND OF IN LOVE WITH HER.

SORRY.

NO, IT'S GOOD.

I LOVE YOU BOTH. AND I'M SORRY I'M THE WORST PERSON IN THE UNIVERSE.

AH, IT'S PART OF YOUR CHARM.

YOU WON'T TELL DAWN HOW I'M THE WORST PERSON IN THE UNIVERSE?

PROMISE.

AND DO I STILL GET TO MAKE CRADLE-ROBBER JOKES?

JUST USED UP YOUR LAST.

UH, COUGH.

NOISE OF COUGH.

HEY, DAWNIE, WE--

NOTHING! FRIEND HUG! BECAUSE OF SAD.

NO SUBTLE BOSOM-PRESSING IN HUG.

BUFFY, I'M YOUR SISTER. I KNOW YOU COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING SUBTLE.

CAT'S OUT, DAWNIE.

AND I APPROVE. I'M BUFFY AND I APPROVE THIS KISSAGE.

DIDN'T ASK, BUT OKAY. WE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS. THREE OF THEM. GODDESS-SIZED.

WILL CAN'T CONTAIN THEM?

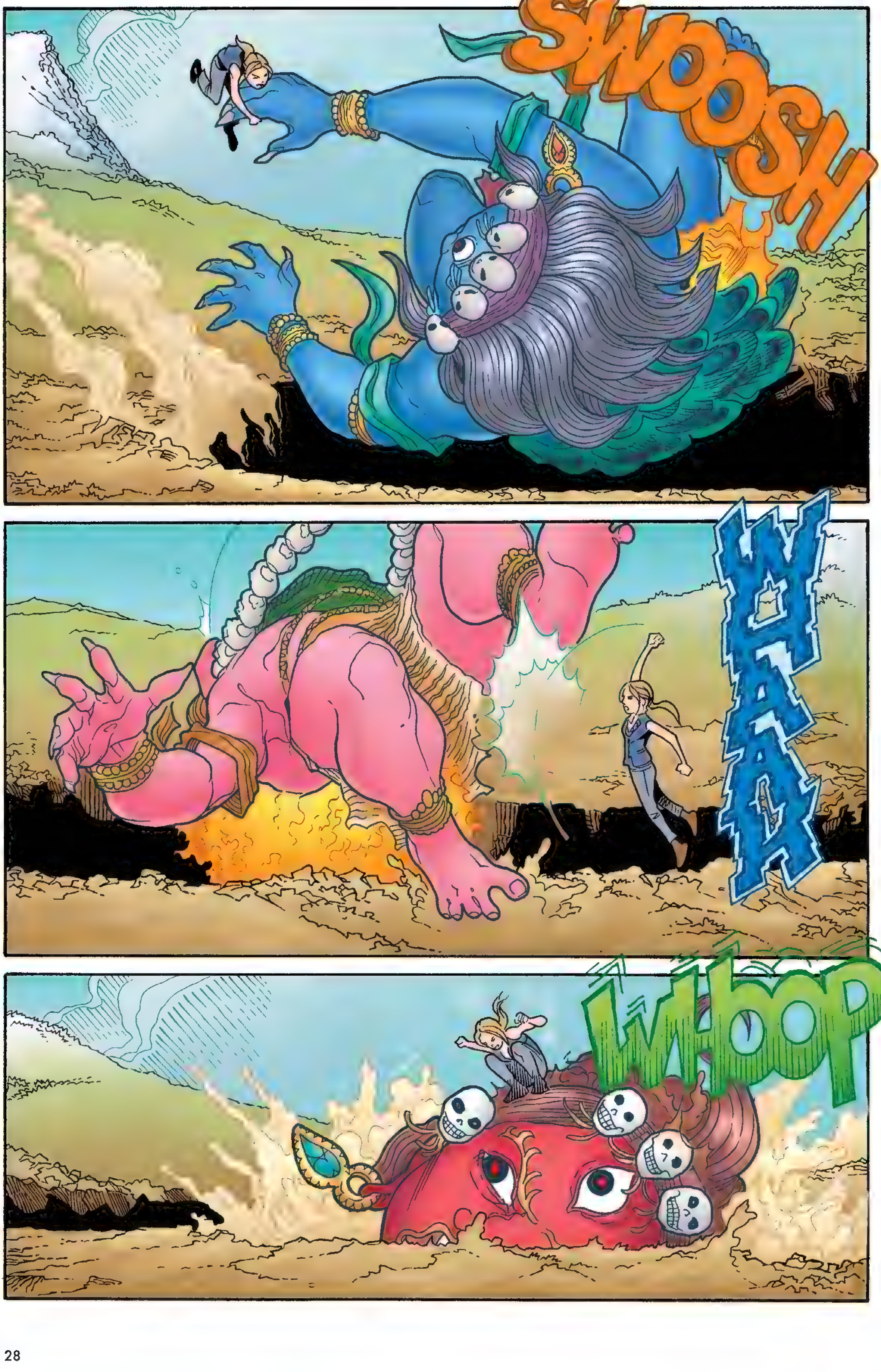
NOT ALONE.

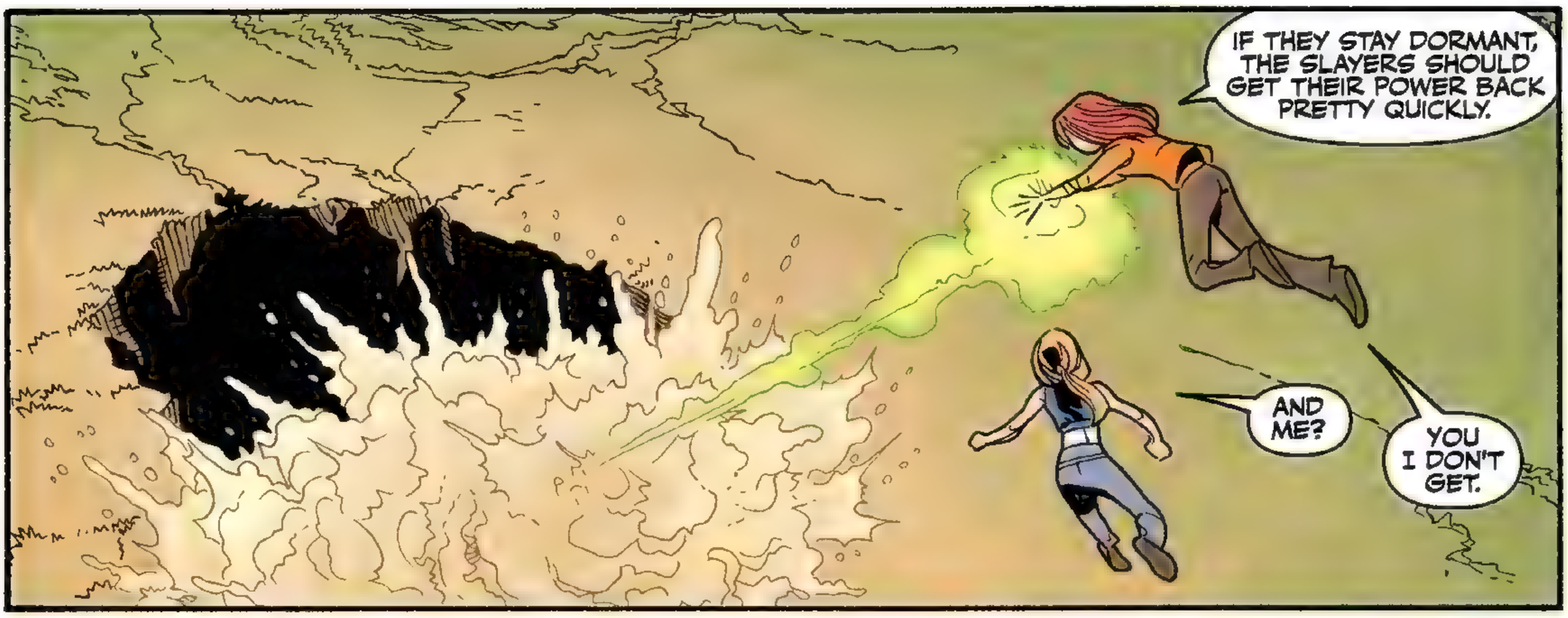
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA.

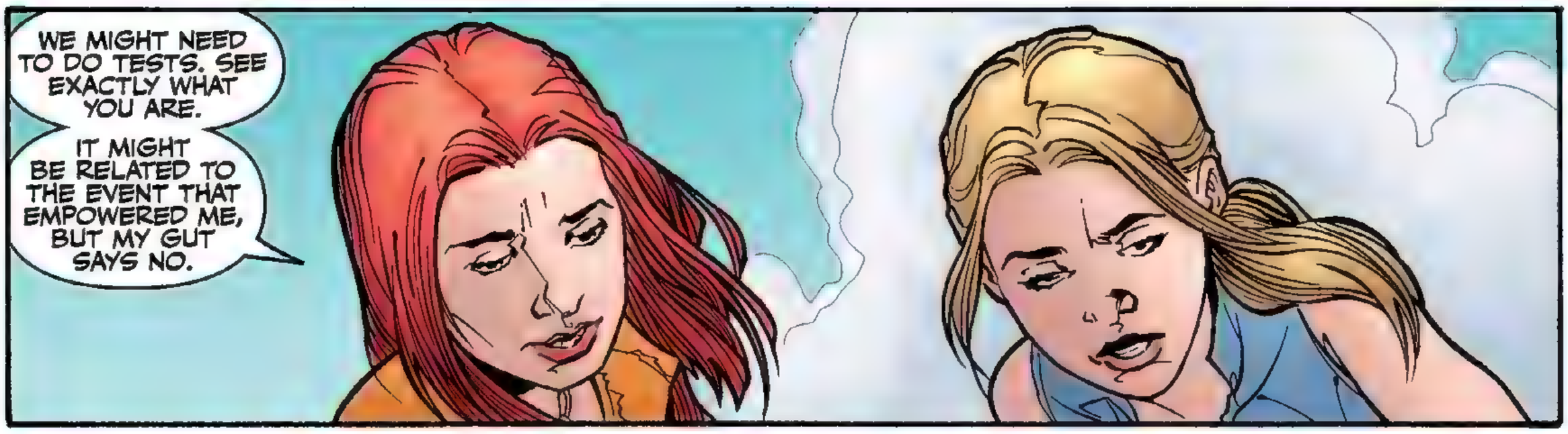
JUST DIVING RIGHT IN TO THE P.D.A., THERE...

MY MAGIC BOUNCES OFF THEM. I'M BARELY SLOWING THEM DOWN.
COOL GIANT ASTRAL HEAD.
ARE MY NOSTRILS, LIKE, HUGE?
YOU LOOK GREAT. HERE'S THE DEAL.
DON'T FOCUS ON THEM.
THEY WERE DEEP IN THE EARTH, RIGHT? YOU JUST DIG ME A BIG HOLE.
AND WHAT, COVER IT WITH LEAVES? THESE ARE GODDESSES, NOT TIGERS.
WILL, YOU DIG, I'LL DO THE REST.
PLEASE TELL ME THIS DOESN'T INVOLVE ARTILLERY.
IT DOES NOT.
IT INVOLVES SOMETHING I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND. THAT, HONESTLY, FREAKS ME OUT, AND I WAS HOPING NOT TO MENTION.
IT'S A NUKE.
YOU'RE A DYKE.
YOU SACRIFICE A "KEY"...
THANKS FOR THE VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE AND SHUT YOUR MOUTHS AND LOOK.
UP IN THE SKY.

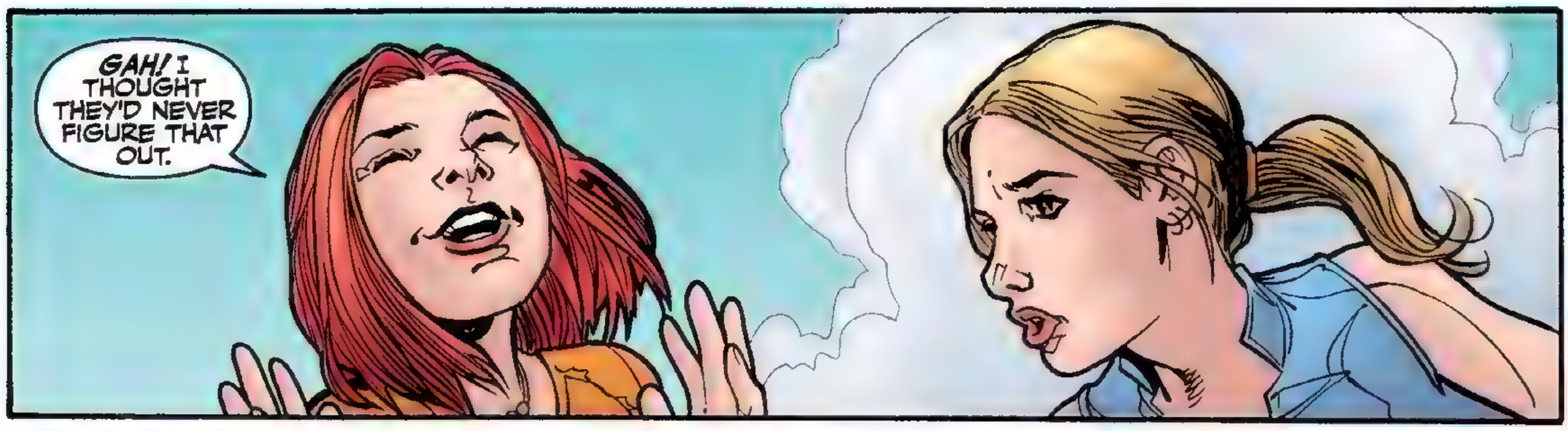
THAT'S ACTUALLY HOT.
I...DON'T AGREE.
GAPE.


SWOOSH
KA
WHOOP


IF THEY STAY DORMANT, THE SLAYERS SHOULD GET THEIR POWER BACK PRETTY QUICKLY.
AND ME?
YOU I DON'T GET.

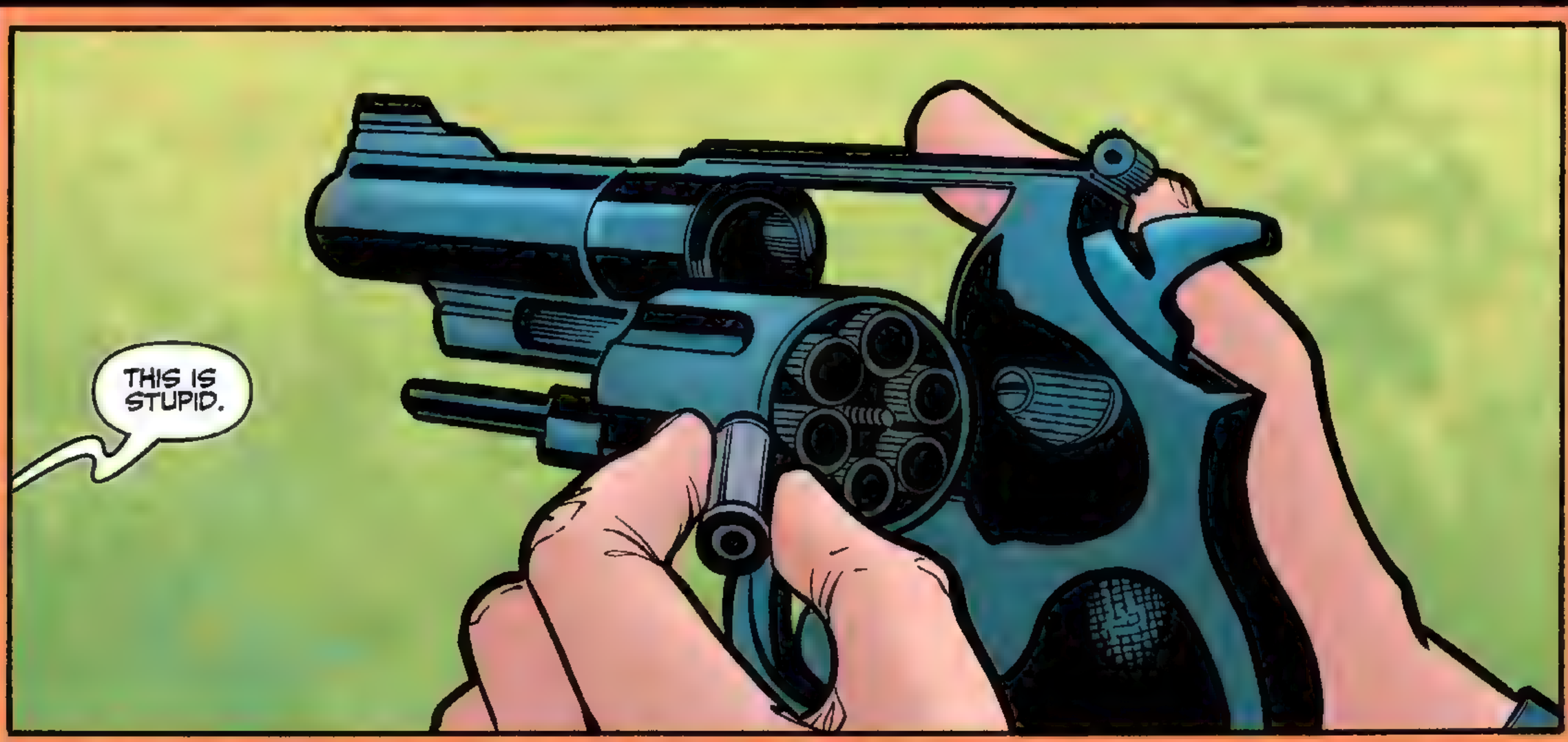

WE MIGHT NEED TO DO TESTS. SEE EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE.
IT MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE EVENT THAT EMPOWERED ME, BUT MY GUT SAYS NO.

XANDER AND DAWN ARE IN LOVE.


GAH! I THOUGHT THEY'D NEVER FIGURE THAT OUT.

TWILIGHT

CHAPTER ONE: BUFFY HAS F#©$ING SUPERPOWERS



I CAN'T HEAR YOU, DAWNIE.
MY FINGERS ARE IN MY EARS.
THEY'RE NOT IN YOUR EARS.
WHO SAID THAT?
XANDER. BUFFY'S BEST FRIEND. ONE EYE. FUNNY. MOSTLY.
BUFF, IT'S TIME...
DAWN. BUFFY'S SISTER. WAS A GIANT, A CENTAUR, A LITTLE DOLL. NOT ANYMORE. (OBVIOUSLY.)

LET ME JUST SAY... AND NO PRESSURE HERE--
PRESSURE. BEING FELT.
--BUT IF THIS WORKS, THIS COULD QUITE POSSIBLY BE--
PRESSURE INCREASING.
--THIS WILL BE MORE VITAL TO ME THAN MY OWN BIRTH.
BUFFY. SLAYER. STAR.

WHOSE GUN IS THAT?
YOU KEEP FORGETTING I CARRY A GUN.
I DON'T LIKE THEM. THEY KEEP KILLING MY FRIENDS.
YOU READY FOR THIS OR NOT?

MY NAME IS BUFFY SUMMERS.
ON YOUR MARK...!
BUFFY, YOU NEED TO SQUAT DOWN.
SHOULD I SQUAT, OR DO IT FROM STANDING?
I THINK IT LOOKS COOLER FROM STANDING.
NO. SQUAT, FOR SURE.
SQUAT EQUALS RACING.

FOR MONTHS NOW, I'VE BEEN FIGHTING SOME LOONY BIRD NAMED TWILIGHT.
GET SET...!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SQUAT IS BETTER.

GO!
YESTERDAY, I SOMEHOW GOT SUPER-POWERS.
MY FRIENDS KEEP ASKING ME HOW IT FEELS.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
GIVING IT A HEAD START.

ARE YOU--? RUN!
WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE YOU'RE THAT FA--
S
YOU WROTE "GOONIES NEVER SAY DIE" ON YOUR BULLET?
HOW DO THEY THINK IT FEELS?
T.
IT FEELS...
BUGS. IN TEETH.
NOT FUN.
YOU BEAT IT.
NEAT, HUH?
NO...

"...HERE'S NEAT."

WHAT LOOKS BETTER? ONE HAND OR TWO?

WHERE'D YOU GET A TRAIN?

FROM THE CASTLE.

IN THE GARDEN.

PUT IT BACK!

DON'T WORRY...

"...THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE WE'RE HEADED."
DEFINITELY TALL.
REALLY TALL.
AND CONVENIENTLY LOCATED RIGHT WHERE WE ARE IN TIBET.
THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT?
I'LL MAKE IT.
GOOD. BECAUSE...
HHUUUUF!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
YOU'VE GOT *ME*?
WHO'S GOT...
YOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOU!!
HAT TRICK.
"I'M TELLING YOU, WILLOW, THIS IS BAD..."
OOMP

DOESN'T SOUND BAD.

WILLOW. BUFFY'S BEST FRIEND. ALSO A WITCH. IN FUTURE, GOES DARK PHOENIX. WE THINK.

NO. TRUST ME. BAD.

REMEMBER WHEN I GOT POWERS--?

YOU DIDN'T GET POWERS.

YOU BECAME A GIANT. THEN A HORSE--

A CENTAURETTE.

CENTAURETTE?

GIRL CENTAUR. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

DAWNIE, WATCH OUT--CANDLE FLOATING BEHIND YOU...

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM OUT THERE? THEY'RE TREATING IT LIKE IT'S A JOKE.

EVEN ANDREW WOULD TAKE IT MORE SERIOUS THAN THAT.

ANDREW'S NOT WITH THEM?

HUH. ODD.

NO, WHAT'S ODD IS WHEN YOU IGNORE THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T GET POWER FOR FREE.

MINE WAS A CURSE FROM A THRICEWISE!

WITH THIS...

"...WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'VE UNLEASHED?"
OKAY OKAY OKAY.
OKAY.
OKAY.
BREATHE.
OKAY.
TRY HEAT VISION.
NOTHING.
X-RAY VISION?
NOTHING.
OOH, OOH-- TRY PENETRA-VISION!
WHAT'S PENETRA-VISION?
IT'S X-RAY VISION! JUST TRY IT!
SATSU, ANY SIGN OF ANDREW?
LAST I HEARD, HE WAS PAINTING A MAGIC LASSO FOR BUFFY.
HOW ABOUT GILES OR FAITH?
WILL CHECK.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO SEES THE REAL PROBLEM HERE?
DAWNIE, MAYBE YOU JUST MISS YOUR OWN POWERS.
YOU JUST SAID--
I DIDN'T *HAVE* POWERS! XANDER DOESN'T *HAVE* POWERS.
YES, BUT RIGHT NOW, XANDER HAS BUFFY.
IN FACT...
"...YOU SURE THAT'S NOT THE REAL PROBLEM?"
TRY READING MY MIND.
I CAN! IT SAYS...
SO MUCH... MASTURBATION.
SWEET MOTHER OF SHIRLEY HEMPHILL, IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO? REALLY?
NO, NO... BUFFY AND XANDER...
THEY HAD THIS BIG TALK...MADE PEACE--
--IT WAS ALL VERY NICE.
GOOD. THEN YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND-- ALTHOUGH WE WERE FIST-FIGHTING THOSE GODDESSES FOR NEARLY FORTY-EIGHT HOURS STRAIGHT--
--IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERY MONTH-- ON EVERY WEDNESDAY-- IT HAS TO BE THE END OF THE WORLD.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. HAVEN'T YOU EVER READ *"THE MONKEY'S PAW"*?

"YOU DON'T GET THE GOOD WITHOUT GETTING THE CURSE."

TELEPORTATION?

NO.

SUPER-BREATH?

NO.

ADAMANTIUM CLAWS?

XANDER...

CAN YOU SHOOT ARROWS?

THAT'S NOT EVEN A POWER.

SOLVE A MYSTERY?

NOT A POWER.

SPIN A WEB ANY SIZE?

WHY WOULD I EVEN WANNA DO THAT?

TO CATCH THIEVES, JUST LIKE FLIES.

WAIT, CAN YOU BUILD A SUIT OF ARMOR?

THIS IS STARTING TO NOT BE FUN ANYMORE.

I GOT IT!

CAN YOU PHASE?

SORRY, WILL-- THEY WERE ALL HERE EARLIER, BUT RIGHT NOW--

--NO SIGN OF GILES OR FAITH EITHER.

DAWNIE, I HEAR YOU. I DO. BUT BUFFY'S ALWAYS HAD POWERS.

NOT LIKE THESE. NOW SHE'S FASTER THAN A SPEEDING--

OH, JEEZ, I JUST REALIZED WHAT THEY WERE DOING. LOSERS.

BUFFY DEFEATED THREE POWERFUL GODDESSES...

"I'M SURE THIS IS JUST THE UNIVERSE'S TEMPORARY REWARD."

WHATTYA MEAN, "PHASE"?

YOU SORTA... YOU PUT YOUR ARM OUT AND YOU KINDA... IT GOES RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL.

LIKE A GHOST?

BUT THEN WOULDN'T YOU FALL THROUGH THE FLOOR?

NO--BECAUSE YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR MOLECULES...AND MESS UP MACHINERY AND-- AND--AND--

--AND YOU'RE REALLY CUTE, AND YOU HAVE THIS SPUNKY PERSONALITY AND YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF THE TOUGH GUYS WHO EVERYONE ELSE IS TERRIFIED OF.

IT'S GOOD STUFF.

I DON'T SEE THE APPEAL.

WILL, PLEASE-- JUST STOP. LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE.

THE MORE POWER BUFFY GETS--

WHY'RE YOU FLOATING THERE ANYWAY?

JUST A CALLING SPELL-- WE KNOW THEY'RE NOT AMONG THE DEAD.

VANSHANTU NAHCANTU PREESBI...

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, WILL--YOU KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO HER. THE MORE POWER SHE GETS--

"--THE BIGGER THE MONSTERS WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT."

7.2 MILES AWAY.

NORTHERN CLIFFSIDES.

THEY STILL CAN'T SEE US?

NOT FROM THIS DISTANCE.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. THESE NEW POWERS SHE'S DISPLAYING...

AMY. BAD GIRL. BAD WITCH. WAS A RAT. CRAVES CHEESE.

SHE'S GOT POWERS?

WARREN, ARE YOU BLIND? SHE'S FASTER THAN A SPEEDING--

OH. I JUST REALIZED WHAT THEY WERE DOING. NERD-A-TRONS.

WARREN. BAD GUY. NO SKIN. EASILY SLIGHTED. NERDY.

THINK SHE CAN PHASE?

THE GENERAL. NAME CLASSIFIED. LIKE OTHERS, WORKS FOR TWILIGHT. ALSO CRAVES CHEESE.

WHAT ABOUT THE WITCH?

SHE'S NOT LOOKING FOR US...

"SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT'S HAPPENED YET."

YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING ANYMORE, ARE YOU, WILL?

SKUANTUU VLADATETH...

...EKANUU

OY. WE NEED TO LEAVE.

NOW LOOK UP AT THE SKY AND SHOUT IT LIKE THIS:

"SPOON!"

BUFFY, WE GOT PROBLEMS!

I SEARCHED FOR THEM--THEY'RE NOT HERE.

WHO'S NOT HERE?

SEE, THE MONKEY'S PAW IS STARTING! JUST LIKE I SAID!

DAWN!

WHO'S NOT HERE, WILL?

SEE, XAN? IT NEVER STOPS.

NO ONE'S LISTENING TO A WORD I'M--

YOU THINK IT'D BE HARD TO MAKE A SIGNAL WATCH?

GILES, ANDREW, FAITH.
AFTER THE BATTLE--
--THEY WERE HERE. NOW THEY'RE GONE.
DID YOU--?
ALREADY DID A SPELL.
I THINK THEY WERE TELEPORTED.
I THOUGHT YOU MAGICKED US IN? NO TELEPORTING IN OR OUT.
THEY WERE TAKEN OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER FIRST.
CHECK BEYOND THE CAMP.
DID THAT TOO. MAYBE SOMETHING'S HIDING THEM.
THEN DO THE UNHIDING-THEM SPELL.
THE WAY WE'RE HATED THESE DAYS...
"...IT'S NOT SAFE OUT THERE."
THE WITCH KNOWS. AND SHE KNOWS HOW WE GOT IN.
UNCLEAR...
THAT GOOD OR BAD? WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

"...BUT I THINK WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT."

I ASSUME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GILES FIRST?

FAITH. EVEN WITH THE EXTRA SLAYERS, SHE'S STILL EASIEST TO FIND.

SHUUNATI FUUG GHALLGAH DER SHTUUL.

WAIT. I KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. I CAN UNDERSTAND IT.

"TAKE ME TO THE SLAYER WHO NEEDS ME MOST."

MAYBE IT'S YOUR NEW POWERS.

THAT'S FINE--BUT, WILL--

I THOUGHT I WAS THE SLAYER WHO NEEDS YOU MOST?

BE SERIOUS, BUFFY...

YOU HAVE FRIENDS.

PIP

NO MORE WILLOW.

WE'RE CLOSE. LESS THAN THREE KLICKS AWAY.

ARE KLICKS FAR? IS THAT A LOT?

FIRE IT UP, PEOPLE. WITH THE WITCH OUT...

"...THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK."

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.

UNNUMBERED APARTMENT BUILDING.

THIRD FLOOR.

PIP

I DON'T LIKE TELEPORTING.

MAKES ME GASSY.

I ALSO DON'T LIKE 'PORTING INTO STRANGE PLACES THAT SMELL LIKE OLD EGGS, URINE, AND RUSTY PENNIES.

FAITH...?

FAITH, YOU OKAY?

BUT WHAT I LIKE LEAST IS... THAT SMELL...

IT AIN'T EGGS.

MY GODDESS.

WHERE'S BUFF--?

--Y?

YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE.

I CHECKED ALL OF GILES'S SAFEHOUSES.

BUDAPEST?

BUDAPEST, ENGLAND, THE U.K.--

ENGLAND'S IN THE U.K.

OKAY, XAN, WE GET YOU'RE ALL MILITARY NOW. I EVEN CHECKED THE ONE IN BRUSSELS. Y'KNOW THEY HAVE BUNNIES INSTEAD OF SQUIRRELS?

HOW'D YOU GET THERE SO FAST?

SHE RAN.

I FLEW.

WHAT? WOULD YOU RUN IF YOU COULD FLY?

STILL NO TELESCOPIC VISION?

I TRIED. NO EYE POWERS.

BUT IF WE'RE LUCKY...

"...HOPEFULLY WILLOW'LL TURN UP SOMETHING."

FLORIDA.

THE PORT OF MIAMI.

CONTAINER # 601174-7.

PIP

THIS ONE'S WORSE.

THE SMELL IS ALL METAL.

METAL OUTSIDE.

METAL INSIDE.

THGIL.

THE LIGHT SHOWS ME WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.

Die Slayers!

FROM THE DENTS IN THE WALL, I KNOW IT WAS A HELL OF A FIGHT.

FROM THE SKIN COLOR, I KNOW IT'S NOT A VAMP.

ANDREW, IF YOU'RE ALIVE AND THIS IS SOME JOKE FOR YOUTUBE...

...I PROMISE YOU, THAT COFFIN'LL BE YOURS.

AND FROM WHAT'S INSIDE, I KNOW GILES AND FAITH AND ANDREW...

...ARE SCREWED.

GILES. BUFFY'S WATCHER. TOUCHES GLASSES A LOT. GROWN UP.

FAITH. BECAME SLAYER WHEN BUFFY DIED. NOT SO THRILLED SHE CAME BACK. SLUTTY FOR ATTENTION.

ANDREW. THAT'S ME!

--CUZ YOU KNOW I'M IN LOVE WITH AN UPTOWN GIRL... MY UP-TOWN GUUUURL!

W-WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHERE ARE WE?

UHHHH...

...I'M... MAN, I'M GASSY.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO GET PUNCHED FOR THAT.

BE THAT AS IT MAY...

...ANY IDEA WHAT'S--?

SUFFERIN' SAPPHO.

HE DID IT...

THE DUAL COMPARTMENTS... THE SIMONSON DESIGN...

I BET HE DID FROZEN VALENCES!

A., YOU GOT THREE SECONDS TO STOP SPEAKING NERD, AND I'M STARTING AT TWO...

THE PSYCHON WAVE! 1982! THE *X-MEN/TEEN TITANS* CROSSOVER!

FAP

YOU WERE WARNED!

IT'S FROM THE COMIC. WHEN DARKSEID CAPTURED EVERYONE--

YOU WANT ANOTHER?

I SWEAR TO YOU! *SLAYER SWEAR!*

THERE *IS* NO SLAYER SWEAR.

THERE IS NOW. KINDA.

I'M SERIOUS. THE MACHINE. IT'S STRAIGHT FROM THE COMIC. IT'S THE DEATH TRAP THE HEROES WERE HELD IN.

IT--IT WAS... WHEN WARREN AND I USED TO TALK ABOUT STUFF--

--WE SAID WHEN WE GOT BIG--

--WE SAID WE'D BUILD ONE OF THESE--

--TO, Y'KNOW... KILL YOU ALL.

NO OFFENSE.

SO WE'RE WHERE?

IN ONE OF HIS PRISONS?

NOT HIS PRISON.

WE'RE IN THE HEADQUARTERS. TWILIGHT'S HEADQUARTERS. THE VILLAIN H.Q.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

WHO DO YOU THINK DESIGNED IT?

MY GOD, THE VIEW SCREEN IS BETTER THAN THE WINDOW.

THE JEALOUSY IS SUCKING MY CORTEX LIKE A CETI EEL.

BUT-- BUT--IF WE'RE HERE...?

"...WHERE IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS EVERYONE ELSE?"

MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA.

THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN.

UNNAMED MARSH.

PIP

IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE.

FOUL SMELL.

ODD PLACE.

AND DEAD--

NO. NOT DEAD YET.

H-H-HELP... HELP ME...

I-I KNOW YOU-- YOU'RE A SLAYER.

HOW DO I KNOW YOU...?

...AT TRAINING... IN ATLANTA...

=KOFF=

...CORI... MY NAME'S CORI...

I CAN DO A HEALING SPELL, CORI.

...YOU CAN'T... YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T...

...THEY FOUND US... BUT THE MOB...

...THEY WERE A MOB...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

WHO'S "US"?

WHO WERE YOU WITH?

ALL OF US...

...ALL OUR GIRLS.

...JUST PLEASE...

"...PLEASE DON'T TELL BUFFY WE FAILED..."

I HAVE TELESCOPIC VISION!

SAYS WHAT?

I CAN SEE...

IT'S HARD TO TURN IT OFF.

IN GREECE...IN MYKONOS...

THERE'S AN OLDER COUPLE WHO--

EW.

EW, LIKE INTERNET EW!

THAT'LL LEARN YA.

YOU CAN'T UNSEE WHAT YOU SEE.

TRY FOCUSING IT AROUND HERE.

MAYBE GILES AND FAITH ARE STILL ON THIS SIDE OF THE CLIFFS.

I'LL CHECK, BUT--

OOOH.

WHAT? YOU FOUND THEM?

NOT THEM...

"...BUT I DEFINITELY FOUND SOMEONE."

I THINK SHE'S COMING.

EXCUSE ME?

SHE. HER.

BUFFY.

RUN.

"RUN"? SHE'S TWO MILES AWAY.
I CAN DO A SPELL.
NOT THAT FAST YOU CAN'T.
THERE'S NO RETREAT.
YOU UNDERSTAND? WE FIGHT UNTIL--!
SHE CAN SEE US. CAN SHE SEE US?
GENERAL... WOULD YOU CARE TO STEP OUTSIDE?

FREEZE!
I SAID FREEZE!
THEY HEARD YOU, XAN.
THEY DID?
SEE? FREEZING.
OKAY. THAT'S GOOD.
BUT...
ER...
AREN'T YOU A SUPERVILLAIN TEAM TRYING TO MURDER US?
WHAT? NOW YOU DON'T WANT TO MURDER US?
WE'RE NOT A SUPERVILLAIN TEAM. WE JUST HAVE A MILITARY GUY.
AND A SQUABBLING COUPLE.
WE DON'T SQUABBLE.
WE DIDN'T COME TO ATTACK.
I THOUGHT TWILIGHT--
DON'T YOU SEE...?
TWILIGHT KICKED US OUT--
HE USED US.
I DON'T LIKE BEING USED.
HE DOESN'T. AND I DON'T LIKE IT EVEN MORE.
SO IF YOU HELP US--
--WE'LL HELP YOU KICK HIS ASS.

PIP

B--!

WILL?

--UFFY!

OH.

YOU'RE GETTING FASTER.

Y'THINK?

MONKEY'S PAW!

DAWN'S RIGHT! THIS IS ALL--IT'S NO GOOD.

I CAN FEEL IT. SOMETHING REALLY BAD'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR GILES AND FAITH?

I WAS. I TRIED.

BUT INSTEAD--

BUFFY, YOUR POWERS-- THEY'RE NOT A GIFT FOR DEFEATING THE GODDESSES.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING-- THOSE FORTY-EIGHT HOURS WE WERE OUT--

--SO MANY SLAYERS--

--THERE WERE ATTACKS ALL OVER, AND I FOUND...

WILL, YOU'RE SCARING ME...

YOU NEED TO BE SCARED.

DON'T YOU SEE? ALL THE GIRLS WHO DIED FIGHTING HERE, PLUS OUT THERE...

ALL THIS POWER...

YOU'RE GETTING IT FROM THE GIRLS, BUFFY.

OUR GIRLS.

THAT'S WHERE ALL THE POWER'S COMING FROM...

YOU'RE SUCKING IT FROM EVERY SLAYER WHO DIES.

"HERE'S MY TRUE CONCERN--"

--WHEN WE SET UP CAMP, WILLOW'S MAGICKS WERE PROTECTING US, YES?

SO FOR TWILIGHT TO TELEPORT US HERE--

AMY DID IT.

SHE TELEPORTED THREE OF US OUT, WHICH LET HER PORT THREE OF THEM IN. THAT'S WHY NO ONE'S HERE.

WARREN WAS WORKING ON A SIMILAR TRANSPORTER FOR YEARS.

STUPID WARREN-- EVEN USED THE SAME PASS CODES.

J-Ø-S-H-U-A. PLEASE.

OKAY, SO THREE OF US COME HERE, BUT I THOUGHT RILEY SAID THERE WERE FOUR.

FOUR WHAT?

FOUR. OF THEM.

FOUR BAD GUYS, RIGHT?

AMY, WARREN, THE GENERAL, AND--

SWSHHHH

HE CAN SEE US. CAN HE SEE US?

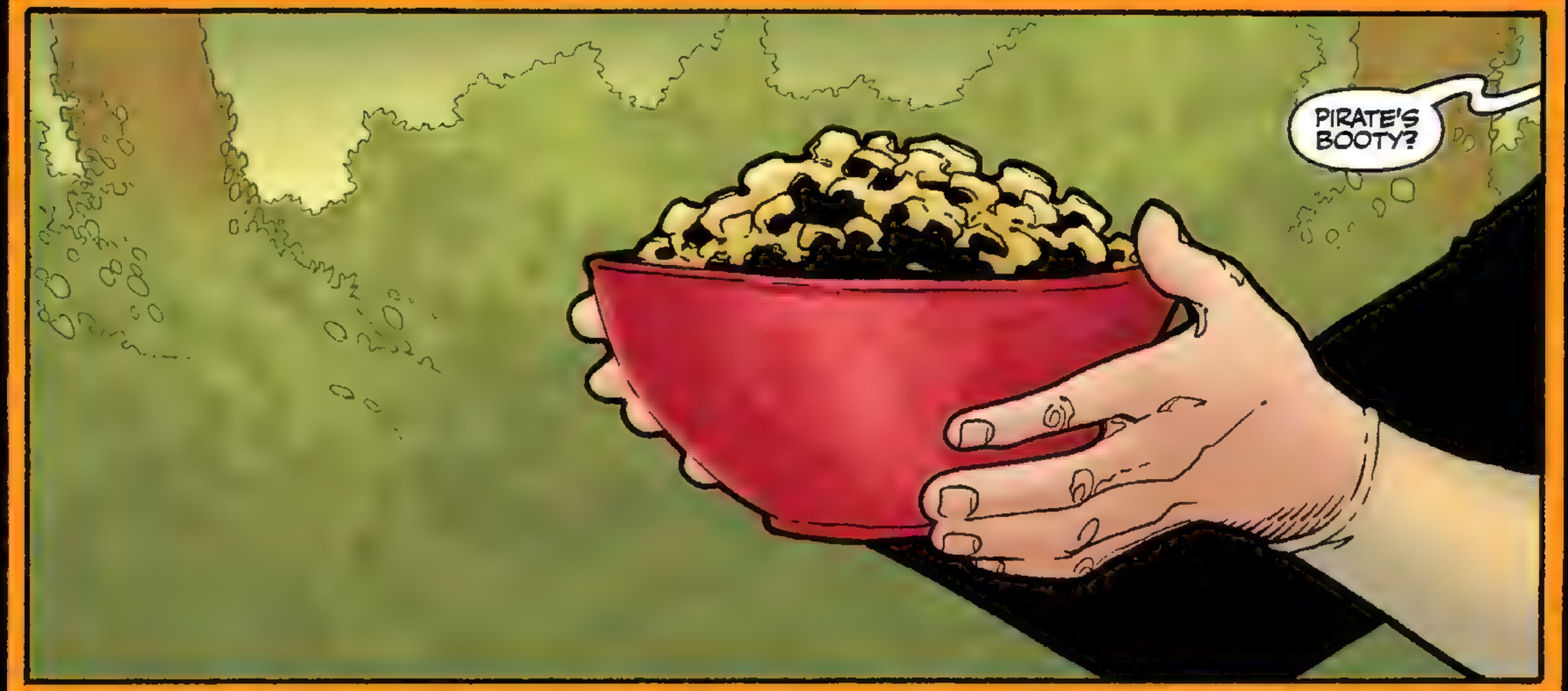
YOU CAN CALL ME *TWILIGHT.*

NOW WHO WANTS TO HEAR A REALLY COOL MASTER PLAN?

Next:
The Master Plan

TWILIGHT

CHAPTER TWO: THE MASTER PLAN



IT REALLY IS THE BEST SNACK EVER.

NOT FUNNY, XAN.

WASN'T TRYING TO BE FUNNY.

OH, THE EYE PATCH. PIRATE.

THAT'S *KINDA* FUNNY.

(AND OVERUSED.)

IT'S *NOT* FUNNY.

AND Y'KNOW I HATE PEP TALKS.

YOU *LOVE* PEP TALKS.

OUR BEST MOMENTS HAVE BEEN PEP TALKS.

BUT THIS ISN'T THAT MOMENT.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT WILLOW SAID? THE ONLY REASON I CAN DO--

--THIS--

--IS BECAUSE I'M TAKING THE POWER FROM OTHER SLAYERS.

NO. NONONO. YOU'RE NOT TAKING THEIR POWERS-- YOU'RE--

--YOU'RE GETTING THEIR POWER WHEN THEY DIE. LIKE HIGHLANDER. OR RISING STARS.

BOY, THAT'S NOT A GOOD PEP TALK.

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.

SINCE WE STARTED, WE'VE LOST TWO HUNDRED AND SIX GIRLS. THAT'S OVER TWO HUNDRED GIRLS *DEAD!*

AND NOW THEIR POWER--IT'S IN--

--IT'S IN ME!

I UNDERSTAND-- AND THAT'S CREEPY, AND IT'S UNWANTED--

--BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE YOU A BAD PERSON.

BUT DON'T YOU SEE WHAT IT DOES MAKE ME?

IF I'M SUCKING THEIR POWER...

IT MAKES ME A VAMPIRE.

VILLAIN H.Q.

OKAY, I'M THINKING OF A NUMBER.

WHO WANTS TO DIE FIRST?

SHOULD IT BE GILES?

FAITH?

OR...

OR...

THAT'S THE SECOND TIME.

ANDREW.

MY NAME'S ANDREW.

TH-THAT VOICE.

I KNOW THAT VOICE...

OF COURSE YOU DO, GILES...

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET RID OF YOUR RESIDENT WITCH...

"PEOPLE START SEEING THE TRUTH."

YOU'RE NOT A VAMPIRE.

I'M SUCKING THEIR POWERS.

THEN I GET STRONGER.

WHAT'S THAT SOUND LIKE TO YOU?

IT SOUNDS LIKE THE ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO, AS ALWAYS, IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING--

--*TRULY* ANYTHING THIS TIME--

--EXCEPT FORGIVING HERSELF.

AND YES, I'VE SEEN WHAT YOU CAN DO.

FLYING... SUPERSPEED...

I SAW YOU KICK THAT GIANT BOULDER LIKE A SOCCER BALL.

BUT IF THE UNIVERSE IS GIVING YOU THAT POWER, IT'S GOTTA BE FOR A REASON.

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN IN THE FIRST PLACE. DON'T YOU SEE?

YOU. ARE. HERE. FOR. A. REASON--

--AND IT'S NOT JUST TO KICK GIANT BOULDERS.

THAT WAS A MUCH BETTER PEP TALK.

IT WAS ACTUALLY FROM *SUPERMAN I.* PA KENT'S SPEECH.

GETS ME EVERY TIME.

SORRY-- IT'S JUST SO EASY WITH THE SUPERPOWER THING.

XAN, WE'RE LOSING TIME.

YOUR *SUPERMAN* SPEECH WORK OR NOT?

WILL, DON'T GO GIANT HEAD. GIANT HEADS ARE BAD.

JUST TELL ME WHAT WE'RE DOING.

SAME THING WE ALWAYS DO, PINKY. FIND THE BIG BAD...

"...AND KICK HIM IN THE BOULDERS."

YOU'RE DEAD!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THIS ISN'T A FAIR FIGHT?

WHO SAID I WAS FIGHTING FAIR?

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK "INVULNERABLE" ISN'T "ALL OVER"?

"WE NEED A BETTER PLAN."

THIS *IS* THE MASTER PLAN. UNDOING MAGIC TAKES TIME.

ESPECIALLY... COUGH COUGH *AMY*

...SLOPPY MAGIC.

SLOPPY?

STILL A RAT.

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS YOU DIDN'T THINK OF HIDING *YOUR* SECRET H.Q. THREE SECONDS IN THE FUTURE.

STILL A BITCH.

SO WHEN THE CLOAK DROPS, THEIR H.Q. WILL APPEAR ON THIS SCREEN?

THEN YOU JUST FLY IN AND DO THE FIGHT-SCENE THING.

H-HE HURT FAITH.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I FEEL HER. I CAN FEEL THE OTHER SLAYERS OUT THERE.

OKAY. WEIRD...

"JUST DON'T FORGET WHAT WARREN SAID ABOUT THE HIDDEN ARSENAL."

---*MY* H.Q.! IT WAS *MY* GENIUS THAT BUILT IT!

AND FOR TWILIGHT TO THINK HE CAN *STEAL* IT FROM ME--!

RELAX, SOLDIER. WE'LL BE BACK ON TRACK SOON ENOUGH.

"BACK ON TRACK"? YOU LISTENING TO THESE NUTWADS?

I MEAN, WARREN...THE GENERAL...

...THEY'VE ALL TRIED TO KILL US.

I HEAR YOU, DAWNIE.

BUT BEFORE WE DEAL WITH PROBLEM NUMBER TWO--

"--WE FIRST GOTTA DEAL WITH PROBLEM NUMBER ONE."

FAITH...?

OH C'MON, YOU'RE STRONGER THAN THAT.

FAITH...?

NISCAATUU SKUANTEE VEENAA...

LACE UP YOUR SKATES, PEOPLE.

REEMERGENCE UNDERWAY...

I-INVULNERABLE...

HE'S INVULNERABLE.

AND-- AND FASTER THAN...

SUPERSPEED. PLUS STRENGTH.

I CAN FLY TOO. YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS HEADED, RIGHT?

I'M GETTING OUTLINES!

GET READY, BUFFY!

EVERY WATCHER WONDERS IF HIS SLAYER MIGHT BE THE GIRL...

...AND YOU'VE HAD MORE REASON THAN ANY.

THREE SECONDS...

W-WHUT'S HE TALKING ABOUT, G.?

WAIT.

YOU HAVEN'T EVEN *TOLD* HER YET, HAVE YOU?

AND YOU HAVEN'T TOLD *BUFFY* EITHER.

I FIGURED WITH ALL YOUR RECENT JAUNTS... TO ENGLAND...TO GERMANY...

...I THOUGHT THEY ALL KNEW WHAT YOU WERE REALLY LOOKING FOR.

BUT NOW, THANKS TO YOUR SILENCE--

"--SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S BECOME."

--TWO SECONDS...!

BUT YOU KNOW.

SHE'S ABOUT TO FACE SOMETHING SHE TRULY CAN'T FIGHT.

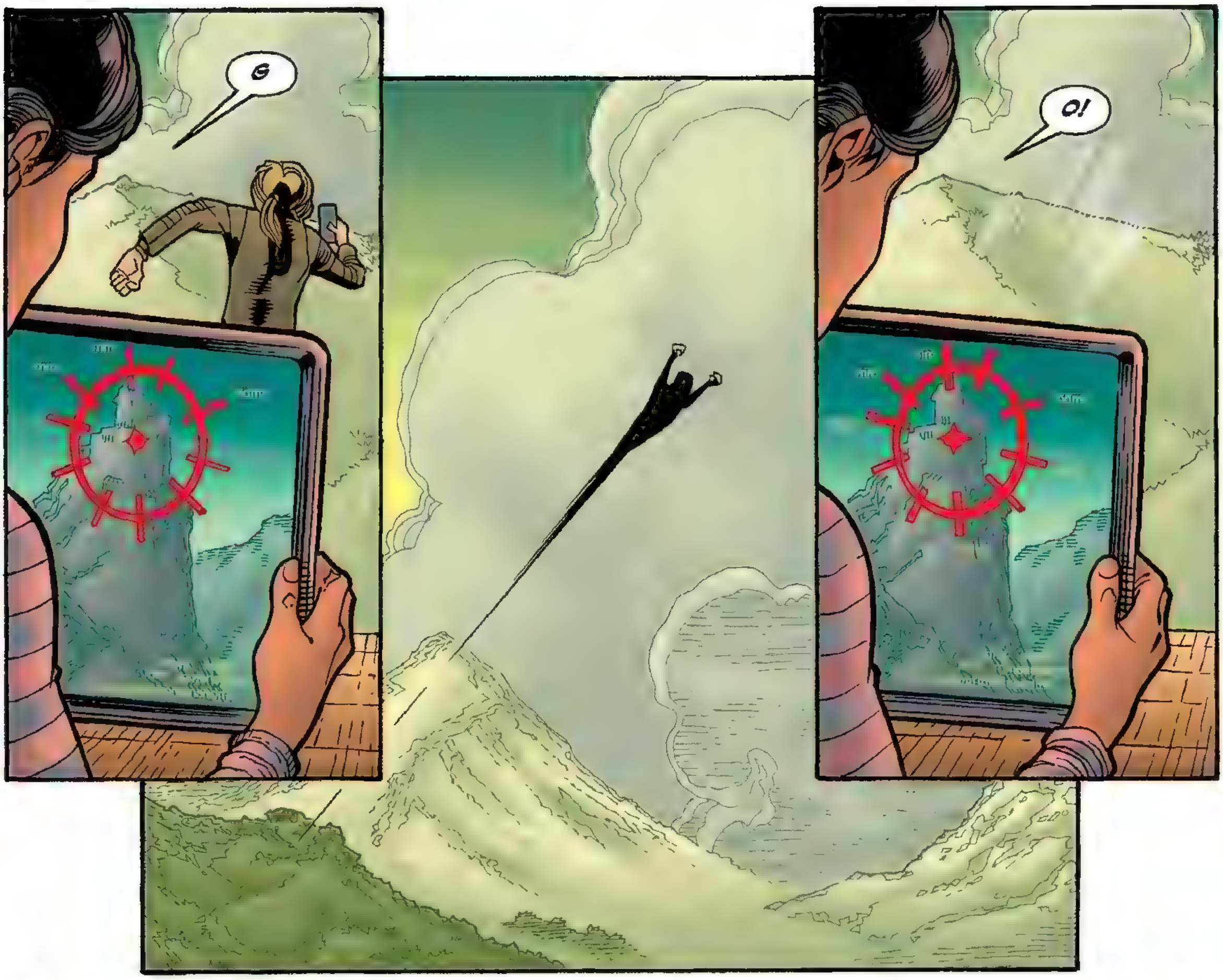
NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE--

bink

ANDREW...

DID YOU JUST HIT ME WITH A FRISBEE?

IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME.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O!

ANDREW...
DON'T MAKE ME REPULSOR YOU, MAN!
I MIGHT MAKE YOU.

RRRRRRRRRRR

RROOOMM!

MOMENTUM'S ON MY SIDE.

I CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD.

YEAH...

YOU LISTEN TO ME, TWILIGHT--

MY GOD, IS THAT REALLY THE NAME YOU PICKED? *TWILIGHT?* Y'KNOW I LIVED THAT IDEA FIRST, RIGHT?

(AND MY VAMPIRE WAS SO MUCH BETTER.)

I MISSED YOU TOO.

DID WE WIN?
HIS VOICE...
HE'S ANGEL... TWILIGHT IS ANGEL.
SHE'LL BEAT HIM. SHE WILL.
NO. NOT THIS TIME.
REGARDLESS OF WHAT BUFFY DOES--
"--THERE IS NO WINNING."
BUFF?
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE.
YOU'RE EVEN STRONGER THAN I'D HOPED.
THAT WAS THE FIRST BLOW I'VE *FELT* IN A LONG WHILE.
BUT YOU NEED TO STOP. YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED.
THAT'S NOT ANGEL. IT'S NOT.
IT'S GOTTA BE ANGELUS.
AND DON'T THINK I'M ANGELUS EITHER.
I'M ME.
AND YOU KNOW I'M ME. I KNOW YOU FEEL IT.
OH, AND BUFF--
STOP TALKING!
YOUR BEST ASSET WAS THAT YOU WEREN'T A TALKER!

KRRRKKK

WHAT WAS THAT?

THAT WAS A SONIC BOOM.

I THINK THEY'RE FIGHTING.

YOU KILLED MY GIRLS!

TWO HUNDRED AND SIX GIRLS!

I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE. THIS WAS HAPPENING.
STOP SAYING CRYPTIC CRAP LIKE THAT!
IT HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU *MADE IT* HAPPEN! YOU MADE THEM HATE US!
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WORSE IT COULD'VE BEEN?
POWERFUL PEOPLE-- *GOVERNMENTS*-- LINING UP TO WIPE OUT THE *"TERRORISTS"* YOU CREATED. DEMONS WEREN'T THRILLED EITHER.
UFF!
I PUT ON A MASK, TALK ABOUT *"MASTER PLANS"*... DISTRACT THEM. KEEP THE BODY COUNT AS LOW AS I CAN WHILE I PUSH.

PUSH ME WHY? SO I CAN ABSORB THE POWER OF MY *DEAD FRIENDS?*
WHO TOLD YOU THAT? WILLOW? I THOUGHT SHE'D SEE FURTHER THAN THAT.
THAT'S NOT WHY YOU HAVE THESE POWERS.
AND STOP TRYING TO PUNCH ME.
HUUF!
IT WON'T MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

IT WILL.

BAM

SEE? IT WON'T. NOT THIS TIME.
NOT IF YOU HIT ME A HUNDRED TIMES.
IT'S DIFFERENT NOW, BUFFY.
YOUR POWER-- LIKE MY POWER--HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER SLAYERS.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU--TO US--
--THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
WHAT WE EARNED. WHAT WE *NEED.*

STOP *LYING* TO ME! I *KNOW* YOU'RE LYING!

WHY *ELSE* WOULD YOU BE-BE-BE--

--BE *HIDING* FOR ALL THIS TIME!?

I WASN'T HIDING.

=HHHHH=

SEE, THAT DIDN'T FEEL BETTER EITHER, DID IT?

AND I WASN'T HIDING.

I WAS IN L.A. THINGS GOT VERY FUNKY. I'M OKAY NOW.

I'M BETTER THAN OKAY.

I DON'T GIVE A *CRAP* ABOUT L.A.!

WHY DID YOU PUT US THROUGH THIS F~~#%~~ING HELL FOR THE PAST YEAR!?

YOU FUNDAMENTALLY SHIFTED THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THIS WORLD, BUFFY.

PEOPLE DIE WHEN THAT HAPPENS. EVERY TIME.

IT COULD NEVER BE AS SIMPLE AS YOU HOPED. NOT ON THIS PLANE. BUT IT WAS A PURE ACT, AND IT MEANT YOU WERE READY.

HUFF--!

THE MASK, THE CULT... IT WASN'T JUST TO DISTRACT THE BAD GUYS.

IT WAS TO FOCUS *YOU,* TOO. TO PUSH YOU TO BE WHAT YOU'VE BECOME.

THAT TWIST IN YOUR BELLY ISN'T JUST RAGE, OR CONFUSION--AND FOR ONCE, IT'S NOT EVEN GUILT.

YOU FEEL *ME,* BUFFY. YOU FEEL US.

I'D NEVER TELL HIM HE'S RIGHT.

BUT AS HE SAYS THE WORDS--

THERE IS NO "US"!

THERE'S *ALWAYS* BEEN US.

YOU CAN KEEP SWINGING, BUT YOU KNOW I CAN FEEL YOU COMING.

I KNOW HE'S RIGHT.

GET AWAY FROM ME.

Y'SEE THAT THERE? THAT GLOW ON YOUR ARM EVERY TIME YOU GET CLOSE?

THIS ISN'T JUST ANOTHER FISTFIGHT, BUFFY.

THIS IS HISTORY.

WHAT WAS THAT?

I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.

I THINK THEY'RE TALKING.

OH, AND LOOK AT THAT--NOW YOUR GLOW'S STARTING TO EXPAND.

THERE'S NO GLOW.

YOU'RE IMAGINING A GLOW.

BUFFY, LET GO.

FOR ONE MINUTE, LET GO OF WHAT YOU THINK YOU UNDERSTAND, AND LET YOUR BODY TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

MY... BODY... ISN'T TALKING...

IT'S *SINGING.*

IT'S JOY, BUFFY.

YOU AND I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH JOY. BUT I FEEL IT, BEING THIS CLOSE TO YOU, I FEEL A CONNECTION EVEN I WASN'T PREPARED FOR.

FORGET WHAT I SAID ABOUT HISTORY-- THIS ISN'T JUST HISTORY.

THIS IS *US,* BUFF.

THIS IS OUR FUTURE.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME LIKE YOU USED TO KNOW ME.

MAYBE I DON'T.

BUT I DO KNOW THERE'S A REASON WE'RE BOTH STANDING HERE, FLUSHED WITH THIS UNHOLY POWER.

THERE'S A REASON I LOVED YOU THE MOMENT I SAW YOU.

THERE'S A REASON WE CAN'T BE HAPPY WITH ANYONE ELSE.

AND THERE'S A REASON YOUR WHOLE BODY IS GLOWING RIGHT NOW.

AND THERE'S A REASON THAT, DESPITE ALL THIS POWER COURSING THROUGH ME, WHAT I FEEL RIGHT NOW IS WEAK.

I'M TERRIFIED YOU'LL GO. YOU'LL LEAVE BEFORE WE HAVE A CHANCE TO EXPLORE WHAT THIS REALLY IS, THIS GLOW.

WHAT IF, JUST ONCE, THE RIGHT THING FOR US TO DO IS ALSO THE MOST WONDERFUL? BUFFY...

...DON'T YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY?

WHAT WAS THAT?

ANOTHER SONIC BOOM.

I THINK THEY'RE F#@%ING.

Next: Them F#@%ing

plus the true history of the universe

TWILIGHT

CHAPTER THREE: Them F#©%ing (Plus the True History of the Universe)

YOU GET ALL THE AWKWARD ENERGY--

--ALL THE CHAOS--

ARE WE THERE?

YOU SURE THIS IS TWILIGHT'S H.Q.?

THIS IS H.Q.

GILES...!

FAITH'S HURT!

SHE NEEDS HELP!

'MM NOT HURT.

'MM JUST... BLEEDING

A LOT.

--ALL THE SEMI-COMIC FUMBLING--

THAT'S *MY* SHIELD!

ARE YOU HIGH?

THE SHIELD WAS *MY* IDEA!

YEAH, GO TELL *JOE SIMON* THAT!

PLUS ALL THE CONFUSION--

TWILIGHT IS ANGEL?

--THE UNCERTAINTY--

TWILIGHT IS ANGEL?

BEN IS GLORY?

--THE HEAD-NUMBING RUSH THAT YOU REMEMBER FROM THE FIRST TIME YOU KISSED.

"TWILIGHT IS ANGEL?"

OF COURSE HE IS!

OF COURSE HE IS?

IT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE.

BUT ONCE YOU FIND YOUR FOOTING--

NO, NO, IT DOES...

THE FORCES AT WORK HERE--

--ARE THE EXACT SAME AS WHEN THEY FIRST MET.

PASSION AND LOVE ARE MORE POTENT MAGICKS THAN YOU THINK.

YOU'RE TALKING MAGIC WITH A K, AREN'T YOU? SCREW MAGIC WITH A K.

BUFFY NEEDS OUR HELP. WE NEED TO FIND THEM.

WILLOW, DO A SPELL.

XAN, I DON'T THINK YOU WANT THAT.

WHAT WHAT?

I DON'T THINK YOU WANT ME TO FIND THEM RIGHT NOW.

TRUST ME ON THIS. WITH THESE TWO BEING APART AS LONG AS THEY HAVE--

"--I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY WANNA SEE IT."

YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO LOSE THE COAT?

LOSE THE COAT.

YOU HAVE *ANY* IDEA HOW MUCH I MISSED YOU?

I DO. I HAVE LOTS OF IDEAS.

YEAH. SO DO I.

I-I'M NOT BLEEDING ANYMORE.

MY WOUND-- IT'S--

--IT'S GONE.

I'VE GOT SURFACE-WAVE RADAR.

WE CAN FIND THEM ON THAT.

GILES, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

DON'T PLAY SILENT TREATMENT!

WITH TWI-- WITH ANGEL...

I HEARD YOU TALKING WITH *ANGEL.*

DON'T YOU $#%&ING LIE ABOUT IT, G.!

Y-YOU MUST UNDERSTAND--

EVEN AMONG WATCHERS--

THE LAST TIME THEY THOUGHT THIS WAS HAPPENING-- BACK IN THE 1680S--

THIRTY WATCHERS TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES IN FEAR.

GILES, IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING--!

BUT DON'T YOU SEE? NO ONE *KNOWS* ANYTHING.

IT-IT'S JUST A WATCHER MYTH...A FAIRY TALE.

WE'VE GOT WITCHES, WEREWOLVES AND CENTAURS--

--THE POINT IS, EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO THE DARK, SCARY ONES...

CENTAURETTES!

"--HOW MUCH MORE CAN YOU SHOCK US WITH A FAIRY TALE?"

WANNA TRY IT FLYING?

AFTER.

AFTER WHAT?

AFTER THIS.

FLY UP A LITTLE.

LIKE THIS?

HIGHER.

THERE.

NOW STAY UP THERE.

KEEP YOURSELF WEIGHTLESS AND--

RADAR SAYS THEY'RE NOT MOVING, BUT THEY'RE PICKING UP SPEED, AS IF--

DAWN, YOU'RE IN CHARGE.

I'M DONE.

WAS THAT THEM?

(PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS THEM.)

IT'S RUINING EVERYTHING FOR ME.

I GOT MY POWERS BACK.

I'M STRONG AGAIN.

IT'S--IT'S--IT'S EVERYTHING THEY WARNED--

THE UNIVERSE...

THE UNIVERSE IS ANSWERING.

GILES, YOU HAVE *ZERO* SECONDS TO TELL ME WHAT THE HELL THIS HAS TO DO WITH THE UNIVERSE!

THINK OF HOW THE WORLD WORKS...

"NATURE ISN'T WASTEFUL.

"IT DOESN'T PUT ANYTHING IN THE ECOSYSTEM THAT IT DOESN'T NEED.

"IF ONE SIDE FEEDS TOO MUCH, SMALLER ANIMALS LOSE THEIR FOOD AND THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM COLLAPSES."

IT'S NO DIFFERENT WITH A SLAYER.

THINK OF WHAT KEEPS THE VAMPIRE POPULATION IN CHECK.

YOU'VE HEARD IT BEFORE, YES...?

"...DEMON BLOOD CREATED THE FIRST VAMPIRES...

"BUT SOON AFTER THE CREATURES APPEARED..."

INTO EVERY GENERATION A SLAYER IS BORN.

"PRECISELY.

"WHEREVER A VAMPIRE, THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE A SLAYER.

"GENERATION AFTER GENERATION, THE BATTLE WOULD BE FOUGHT.

"AND LOST.

KK

"AND LOST AGAIN.

KK

"BUT THE BALANCE WOULD ALWAYS BE KEPT."

ACTUALLY, WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, IT SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY BAD PLAN.

GUYS, WE'VE GOT CYCLONES REPORTED IN SIX... SEVEN...*EIGHT* COUNTRIES!

IT *IS* A REALLY BAD PLAN!

THOUSANDS OF VAMPIRES VERSUS ONE SLAYER?

HOW IS THAT FAIR?

IT'S NOT FAIR.

BUT THE GREATEST BATTLES ARE NEVER FAIR.

"THINK OF THE BALANCE."

EARTH TEMPERATURE JUST WENT UP 0.9 DEGREES IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.

ROSSBY WAVES--

--WHATEVER THEY ARE--

--ARE CHURNING FOUR PERCENT FASTER IN EVERY OCEAN.

"HOWEVER MUCH BUFFY AND ANGEL MIGHT LOVE OR MISS EACH OTHER--

"--WHAT BUFFY'S EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW--

"--IS THE PULL OF SOMETHING FAR MORE ANCIENT--"

LUZON, PHILIPPINES.

"--FAR MORE POWERFUL--"

THE INDIAN OCEAN.

"--AND FAR MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN ANYONE IN THIS OMNIVERSE HAS EVER FELT BEFORE."

THREE DAYS AGO.

IT WAS...LIKE AN AFTERSHOCK.

FALLOUT FROM SOME CATACLYSMIC MYTHICAL EVENT.

"IF THE UNIVERSE IS SMART ENOUGH TO CREATE VAMPIRES AND SLAYERS TO BALANCE EACH OTHER OUT--

"--ISN'T IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT, WELL--

"--THAT THE UNIVERSE IS ALSO SMART ENOUGH TO HAVE A FAR BIGGER PLAN FOR THEM?"

FUH

FUH

DO.

NOT.

F%#$ING.

STOP.

THEY'RE REPORTING A SEAQUAKE IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN.
WHERE IN THE OCEAN?
THE ARCTIC OCEAN.
ALL OF IT.
RADAR SAYS THEY'RE MOVING AND--
EW.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT SUPER-SPEED'S FOR.
AND THAT'S THE UNIVERSE'S GRAND PLAN?
GIVING BUFFY SUPER-POWERS SO SHE CAN HAVE DESTINY SEX?
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING.
THESE ABILITIES SHE'S DISPLAYING--
THEY'RE AN EVOLUTION. A PROTECTION FOR WHAT'S COMING.
"INDEED, MY PREDECESSORS--
"--THE CULTISTS WHO TOOK THEIR OWN LIVES--
"--THEY CALLED IT THE NEXT STEP UP THE METAPHYSICAL LADDER."
LOOK OUT FOR THE--
GILES, YOU'RE SCARING ME.
"WE NEED TO BE SCARED.
"THAT'S WHY THEY ONLY WHISPER ABOUT IT, WILLOW.
"THIS ISN'T JUST THE EARTH'S REACTION.
"IT'S HOW THE EARTH GIVES BIRTH TO A NEW REALITY.
DO IT AGAIN.

"FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN WATCHING--WAITING TO FIND ONE SLAYER--

"--JUST ONE--

"--WHO MEASURES UP TO ITS TEST.

"CENTURY AFTER CENTURY, THEY ALL MEET THE SAME FATE."

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE IS NOW UP 1.2 DEGREES!

GUYS, WE'VE GOT HURRICANES STARTING!

CAN YOU FEEL IT?

THE QUAKING...THE RUMBLING--

IT'S COMING...

"UNTIL BUFFY SUMMERS CAME ALONG AND DID THE ONE THING THAT NO SLAYER--NO SLAYER IN HISTORY-- HAD EVER DONE BEFORE."

SHE SHARED THE POWER.

"SHE DIDN'T JUST SHARE IT, WILLOW.

"WITH YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE SCYTHE, SHE *CREATED* IT.

"SHE GAVE THIS WORLD A NEW BREED. A NEW EVOLUTION.

"AND THIS IS THE UNIVERSE'S REWARD.

"THE POWER THAT WILL LET HER REACH THE NEXT STEP ON THE LADDER--

"THE POWER TO SURVIVE THE TWILIGHT."

THAT'S FINE, BUT WHAT ABOUT ANGEL?

NO OFFENSE--

(AND BY THE WAY, I *HATE* YOU ALL)

--BUT WHY'S ANGEL GET A REWARD?

BECAUSE HE'S THE YIN TO HER YANG.

NOW *THERE'S* THE FANTASY.

IT'S NOT A FANTASY. EVERYONE KNOWS IT.

GILES SAID THE UNIVERSE WAS SMART.

SO THINK HOW SMART *IT'S* BEING--

"*ANGEL'S* THE PIECE WE WERE MISSING.

"SURE, BUFFY *SHARED* HER POWER, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO HER PLACE IN THE *SLAYER* HISTORY BOOKS--

"--I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING SHE WAS THE FIRST TO DO."

I CAN'T FIND THEM ON RADAR ANYMORE.

THEY'RE MOVING TOO FAST.

I CHECKED.

THEY'RE NOT ON THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.

I THINK--

JUH--

JUH--

DON'T ASK ME HOW, BUT--

CAN THEY BE MOVING THROUGH TIME?

JUH--

JUST LIKE THAT...

SOON.

THREE DAYS AGO.

NOW.

OH, GODDESS...

WHAT?

THINK ABOUT IT. SHE SHOULD BE *STAKING* HIM RIGHT NOW. SHE DID IT ONCE, TO SAVE THE WORLD.

NOW THE WORLD WON'T LET HER.

IT ISN'T JUST REACTING TO WHAT THEY'RE DOING... IT'S URGING THEM ON.

23RD CENTURY.

"IT'S ALL PART OF IT. WHAT'S BEEN, WHAT'S TO COME--OR MIGHT NOT COME...

"THINK OF BUFFY'S TRUEST LOVES.

"*VAMPIRES*--HUMANS INFECTED BY DEMONS.

"JUST LIKE SLAYERS."

JUST LIKE THAT...!

"BUFFY'S *MEANT* TO MAKE THAT CONNECTION.

"*THAT'S* THE UNIVERSE'S GRAND PLAN."

YES. THEY ARE THE BEST OF THEIR KIND... THE FIRST OF A *NEW* KIND. AND WHEN THEY TRULY *BECOME*?

WE HUMANS WON'T MATTER AT ALL.

"AND DO YOU UNDERSTAND HOW QUICKLY THE ANCIENT DEMONS AND MAGICKS WILL COME POURING BACK IN?"

"WARREN, YOU SEEING THAT--!?"

--I'M SHOWING A DIMENSIONAL RIFT--

HEY, PEOPLE-I-WANT-TO-KILL! IT'S RAINING DEMONS!

GILES, WHEN YOU WERE TALKING WITH ANGEL--

HE SAID... IN GERMANY...IN ENGLAND--

HE SAID YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.

I-I WAS--

THERE ARE RUMORS OF A TOTEM--

--AN ITEM THAT COULD STOP THEM IF THEY GREW TOO POWERFUL.

I KNOW IT SOUNDS HORRIBLE, BUT THAT'S WHAT I WAS SEARCHING FOR--

"I NEEDED TO KNOW HOW TO KILL A GOD.

"BUT LOOK AROUND.

"IT'S TOO LATE NOW--

"TWILIGHT IS HERE!"

WHUH...

TH-THAT WAS--

SPRINKLES.

ANGEL.

ENGLISH.

PLEASE.

DON'T YOU SEE? TO-- IF WE PIERCED THE FINAL WALL--

THE KEYS WERE *US!*

THE KEYS TO *WHAT?*

TO EVERYTHING.

LOOK AROUND.

THEY SAID IT DIDN'T EXIST.

BUT IT DOES. IT ALWAYS HAS.

AND NOW IT'S OURS.

HERE WE ARE, BUFFY.

BUFF...DID YOU--?

HOW'D WE--?

WAIT.

IS THIS--? IT IS, ISN'T IT?

IT TOOK THE TWO OF US--

UM.

WHERE ARE WE?

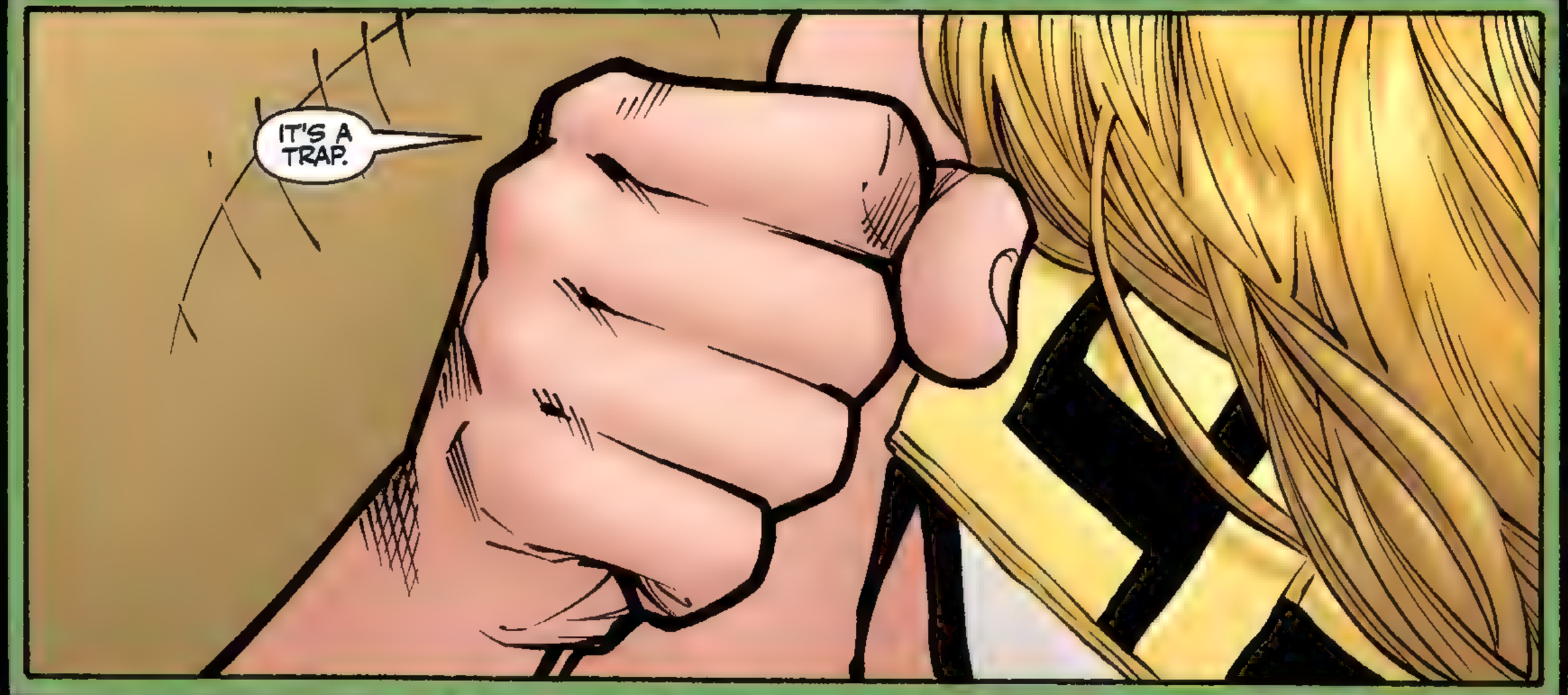
(AND WHY'M I DRESSED?)

WELCOME TO TWILIGHT.

Next:
The Power of Love

TWILIGHT

The Final Chapter: The Power of Love



IT'S NOT A TRAP.

IT'S *ALWAYS* A TRAP.

THAT'S HOW IT IS--

WE GET ONE MOMENT OF PEACE--

THAT WAS *WAY* MORE THAN PEACE. YOUR FINGER WAS--

DO NOT TALK ABOUT IT YET. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT IT YET.

THE POINT IS, THAT'S--

--THAT'S OUR LIVES.

WE CATCH OUR BREATH, WE TURN AROUND--

--AND JUST AS WE FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY TRANSPORTED US...

"--THE VICIOUS ORCS COME OVER THE MOUNTAIN."

LISTEN.

THEY'RE COMING.

NO.
YOU'RE WRONG, BUFFY.
THE ORCS AREN'T COMING.
BUT--
--THAT'S NOT--
THE ORCS *ALWAYS* COME.
UNTIL THE DAY THEY DON'T.

NO--THE MOMENT YOU LOOK AWAY--

THE BAD GUY JUMPS OUT...

THERE'S A BOMB UNDER THE CAR...

THE APPLE'S BEEN POISONED...

APPLE, MAYBE. POISON, NO.

WELL, ***SOMETHING*** WAS IN THAT APPLE, 'CAUSE WHAT I'M FEELING IS A WHOLE LOT WEIRDER THAN "*AFTERGLOW.*"

WHICH I AM ALSO FEELING.

HAVE YOU NOTICED OUR CLOTHES ARE CHANGING?

NOT TO MENTION--BUFFY, ***LOOK--THE WORLD.***

I THINK WE'RE IN--

TWILIGHT!?

WAIT. SO TWILIGHT'S A *PLACE?*

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND--

WHAT I *UNDERSTAND* IS THAT YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS. GODDESS, BEFORE YOU EVEN MET BUFFY, YOU KNEW!

IT WAS A MYTH.

AN UNPROVABLE HYPOTHESIS BASED ON THEORIES THAT SEEK TO EXPLAIN THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT RELIGION, GILES!

I WANNA KNOW WHY ANGEL DRESSED LIKE A FETISH BAD GUY AND BECAME A KILLER!

FAIR QUESTION...

I'M NOT SURE *"KILLER"* IS THE RIGHT WORD.

THE POWER THAT TWILIGHT HAS ON ITS SUBJECTS--

YOU KNOW WHAT, *FORGET IT.* JUST TELL ME WHY WE'RE BEING *ATTACKED!*

IS THIS STILL PART OF THE UNIVERSE'S BALANCE?

THERE IS NO BALANCE. NOT ANYMORE.

WHEN BUFFY AND ANGEL ASCENDED--

IN NAUGHTY FASHION...

--THEY WERE BREACHED INTO A NEW REALITY.

AND THERE IS NO BIRTH WITHOUT BLOOD.

SO THESE DEMONS POURING OUT ALL OVER US ARE SOME SORT OF AFTERBIRTH?

WAIT! *"PLACENTURIANS"!* *THAT* I'M GONNA COPYRIGHT.

YOU'RE CLOSER THAN YOU KNOW.

WHEN YOU'RE BORN INTO THE WORLD, YOU VACATE THE OLD ONE. IT BECOMES...

--UTTERLY EXPENDABLE.

WE'VE GOT FIVE DIFFERENT TEARS IN REALITY--

SIX!

NEW ONE OVER BURMA!

SIX, THEN.

THOUGH... BURMA?

Y'HEAR ME, XANDER?

"IT'S POURING DEMONS!"

KENNEDY, NOTIFY ALL OUR TEAMS! *GLOBALLY!*

I WANT THEM IN HOLDING PATTERNS NEAR WHATEVER ENTRY POINT THEY'RE CLOSEST TO!

UGLIES ARE HERE!

YOU HEARD HER, PEOPLE!

ALREADY ON IT.

GRAB WHATEVER WEAPONS YOU CAN FIND!
I WANT THE SHIELD!
NO DEAL.
YOU CAN HAVE THE REPULSORS.
AND F.Y.I.-- THE SHIELD DOESN'T BOOMERANG BACK LIKE YOU THINK.
THEN WHY DO YOU WANT IT SO BAD?
WHY DO YOU THINK?
WARREN, LOOK OUT!

ANDREW, YOU OKAY?

ANDREW...?

KUUUNG

XANDER! WILLOW!

ANDREW'S BLEEDING BAD!

REPULSOR SHIELD AT 94%

WARREN DOES KNOW WE'RE GOING TO KILL THEM AFTER ALL THIS, DOESN'T HE?

RELAX, AMY.

CURRENT PROBLEMS FIRST.

OUR ERSTWHILE LEADER AND HIS *COOZE* ARE ***AWOL,*** AND IF I WERE GUESSING--

"--I'D BET THAT BOY HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE JUST RIPPED OPEN."

BUT WE DID HAVE THE SEX PART, RIGHT?

YES, WE HAD THE SEX PART.

MOTHER OF MERCY, WE HAD THE SEX PART.

GOOD, BECAUSE QUITE HONESTLY, I'M STILL FEELING...WELL... *SATISFIED--*

--AND I WANNA JUST MAKE SURE WE'RE NOT SOMEHOW STANDING HERE IN MY MIND, OR IN SOME DREAM WHERE I'M THE SNOW-GLOBE AT THE END OF *ST. ELSEWHERE.*

SO MUCH DOUBT. ALWAYS.

IT *IS* YOUR MIND, BUFFY--IT'S BOTH OF OURS--BUT WE'RE NOT TRAPPED IN IT.

I THINK WE'RE FINALLY FREE.

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW, DO YOU?

YOU'RE GUESSING AS MUCH AS I AM, *TWILIGHT.*

YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I AM.

THINK OF HOW WE GOT HERE.

THIS PLACE--

--IT'S A PLACE OF PLEASURE--

--A PLACE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN--

--AND THE ONLY WAY WE GET HERE IS WITH EACH OTHER.

ONE, THAT IS THE SINGLE VELVEETA CHEESIEST COME-ON LINE I'VE EVER HEARD.

TWO, IF YOU SAY THIS IS *HEAVEN* OR SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT, I WILL *SOCK* YOU.

I KNOW WHY YOU USE THE JOKES, BUFFY.

IT'S THE SAME REASON *XANDER* DOES.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. XANDER ENJOYS HIS JOKES.

AND YOU CAN MAKE AS MANY AS YOU WANT.

BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE WHERE WE ARE.

LOOK AROUND...

YOU SEE IT, DON'T YOU?

THIS PLACE--

IT REACTS TO *US*.

THEN WHY'S IT KEEP PUTTING ME IN GRADUATION GOWNS?

NO ONE LOOKS GOOD IN GRADUATION GOWNS.

THAT'S NOT A GRADUATION GOWN.

IT'S A SPANISH MOURNING ROBE FROM THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY--

"--WORN BY A SLAYER FROM THE LATE 1590S."

YOUR OUTFIT BEFORE THAT--

--THE INDIAN SARI--

--WAS FROM A SLAYER IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

I KNOW YOU FEEL IT, BUFFY.

THIS PLACE--

THINK OF IT AS A HIGHER PLANE--

IT'S *NOT* A HIGHER PLANE.

IT'S LIKE I SAID.

IT'S A TRAP.

BOTH OF THOSE STATEMENTS CAN BE TRUE.

WILL YOU STOP TALKING LIKE GILES?

SEE?

IT'S NOT A HIGHER PLANE!

IT'S A DAFFY DUCK CARTOON!

THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF IT.

IT LOOKS THAT WAY BECAUSE YOU MADE IT THAT WAY.

JUST LIKE WE--

OH.

I GET IT.

THAT'S WHY IT FIRST LOOKED LIKE EDEN.

IT'S THE ONE THING THE BEST PHILOSOPHERS HAD RIGHT.

WE BUILD IT OURSELVES, BUFFY.

PARADISE IS OURS TO WRITE.

THAT'S FINE.

GREAT SPEECH.

BUT ALL I WANNA WRITE IS THE PART WHERE I SEE MY FRIENDS.

YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE.

THEY'RE WHEREVER YOU WANT THEM TO BE.

WELL THEN I WANT THEM TO BE RIGHT--

OOOH.

THAT WAS ACTUALLY EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.

WELL THAT'S CERTAINLY THE *SUCK* PART OF EDEN.

DID WE CAUSE THAT?

I-I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE...

WE CAN HELP THEM. WE CAN FIX IT.

WE CAN FIX *EVERYTHING,* BUFFY.

AFTER ALL THESE CENTURIES--

NO MORE FIGHTING--

--NO MORE FAILING--

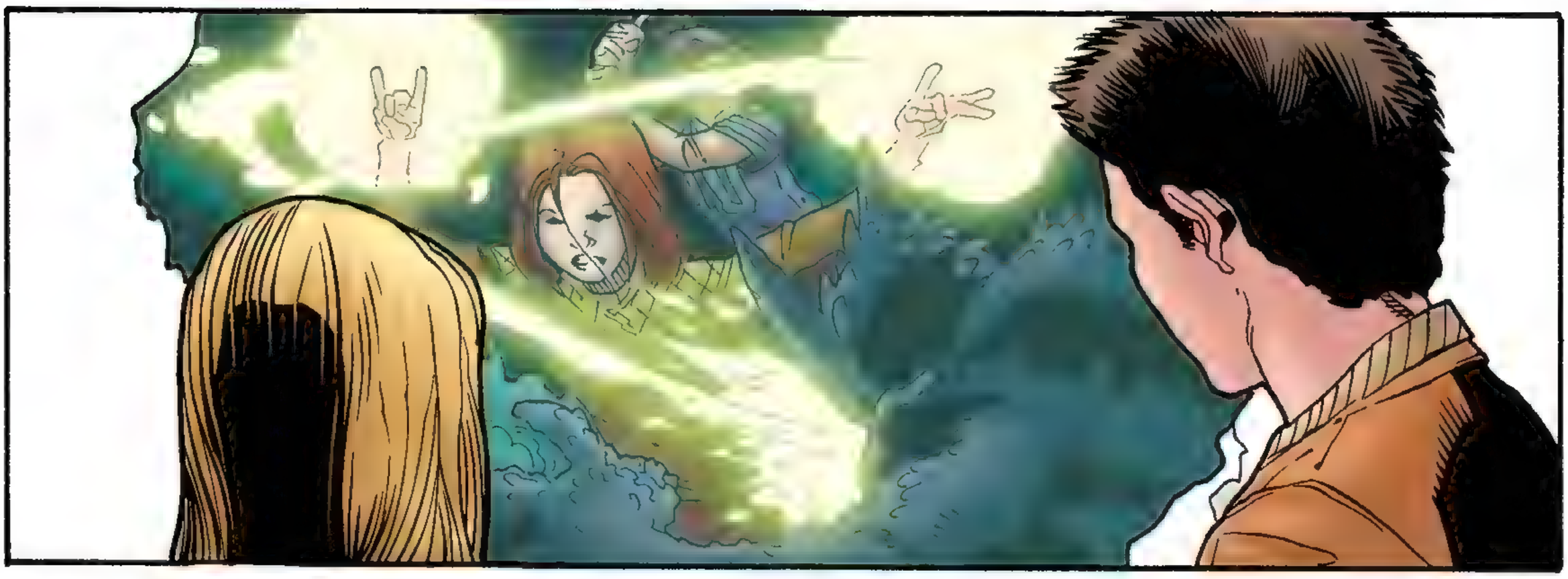
--NO MORE DYING.

THE UNIVERSE WE'RE GOING TO MAKE...

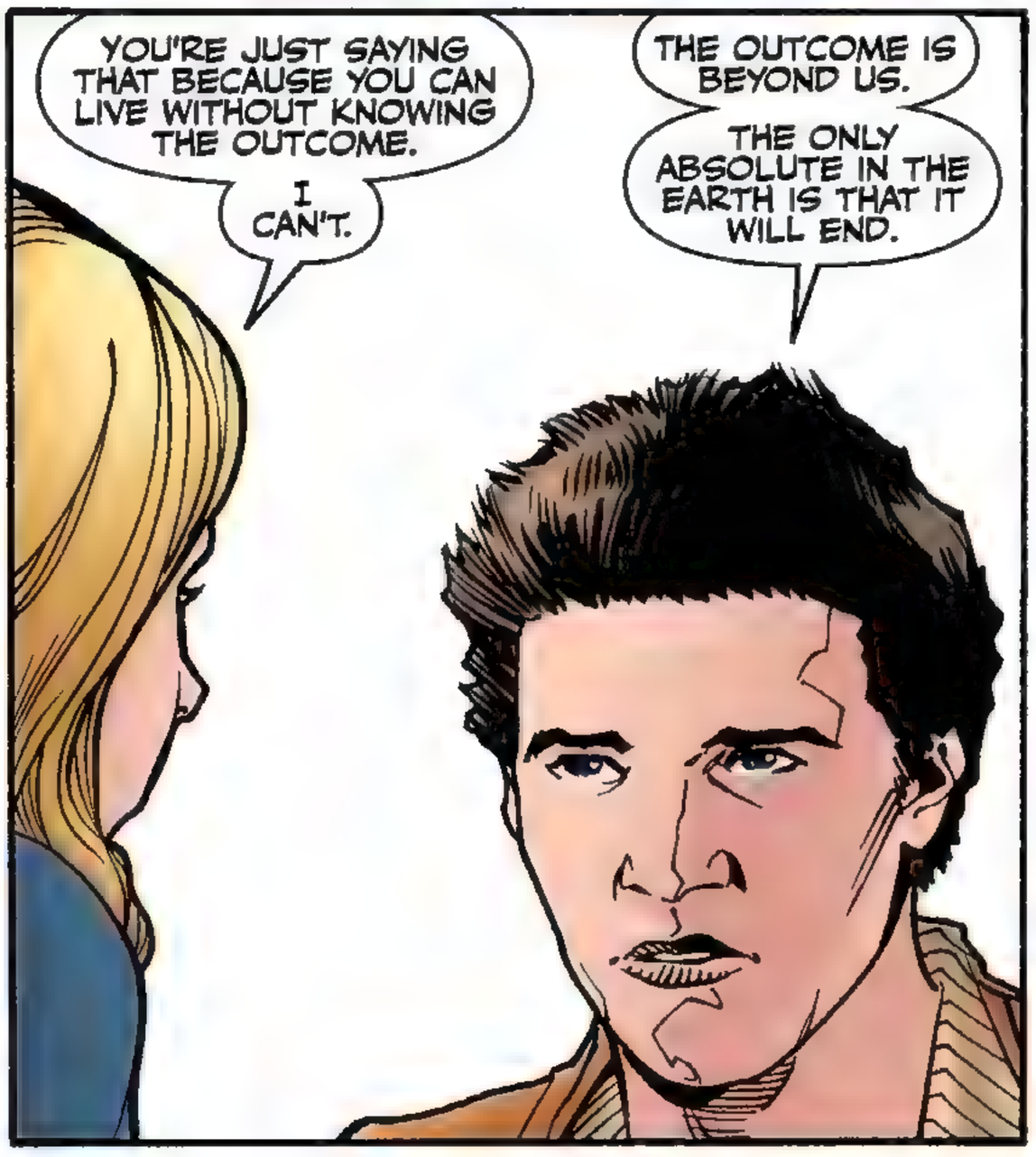
IT'S NOT JUST THAT WE GET TO BE *TOGETHER,* BUFFY--

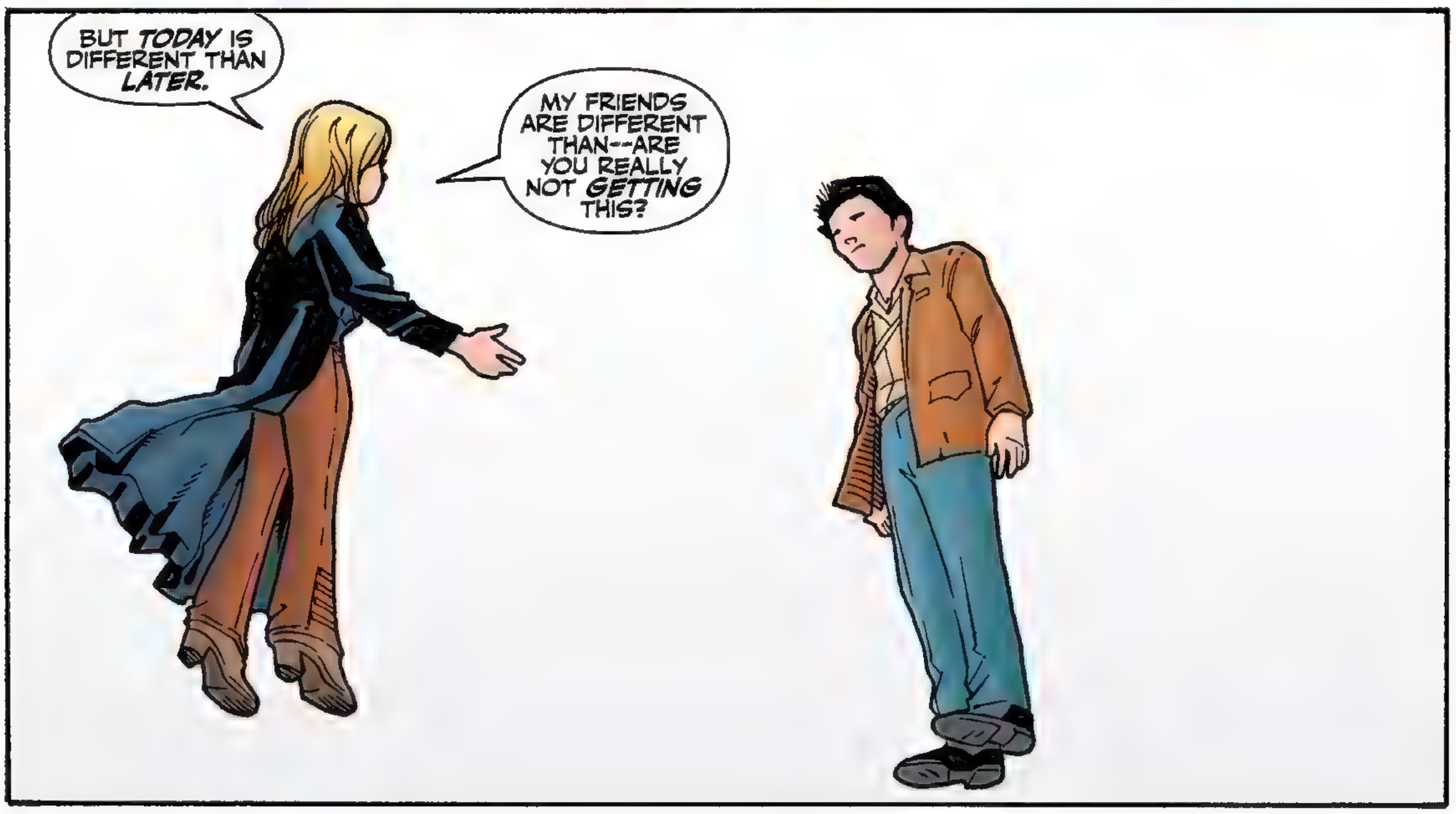
--WE FINALLY GET TO BE HAPPY.

FAITH!
I GOT ANDREW!
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
YOUR POWERS ARE BACK, BUT YOU'RE BLEEDING...
THESE PAN-DIMENSIONAL F@%$ERS AIN'T LIKE ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN.
EVEN WITH THEIR POWERS BACK, OUR GIRLS ARE GONNA GET SLAUGHTERED OUT THERE.
WILLOW!
STOP *YELLING* PEOPLE'S NAMES, XANDER!
WE'RE TRYING OUR BEST!
WHUMP
ARE YOU THE MAGES?
YOU SMELL OF BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.
MIND YOUR MANNERS.
ANOTHER CONTAINMENT SPELL?
THEY BROKE THROUGH FOUR ALREADY.
TELEPORTING?
US OR THEM?
EITHER. ANYTHING.
JUST GET US OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY--



THEY CAN HANDLE THIS, BUFFY.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
IT'S NO DIFFERENT THAN WHEN YOU DIED.
THEY'LL SURVIVE. THEY ALWAYS DO.


YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU CAN LIVE WITHOUT KNOWING THE OUTCOME.
I CAN'T.
THE OUTCOME IS BEYOND US.
THE ONLY ABSOLUTE IN THE EARTH IS THAT IT WILL END.


BUT *TODAY* IS DIFFERENT THAN *LATER.*
MY FRIENDS ARE DIFFERENT THAN--ARE YOU REALLY NOT *GETTING* THIS?

THAT'S WHAT I NEED TO FIGHT FOR. NOT HAPPINESS. NOT HUMANITY.

THEM.

THOSE PEOPLE.

YOU ARE FIGHTING FOR THEM.

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SENT HERE!

THIS IS THE END.

"THE END OF WHAT'S DOWN THERE--

"AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA--"

THE BEGINNING OF US.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE.

THE UNIVERSE ALREADY CHOSE US!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LEAVE BEHIND THE LOWER PLANE.

LEAVE BEHIND?

MY FAMILY IS ON THAT LOWER PLANE.

"MY *FAMILY.*"

BUFFY...!

SHE CAN'T HEAR YOU.

SHE CAN.

SHE ALWAYS CAN.

YOU DO UNDERSTAND THAT BEING HERE IS WHAT YOU'RE MEANT FOR?

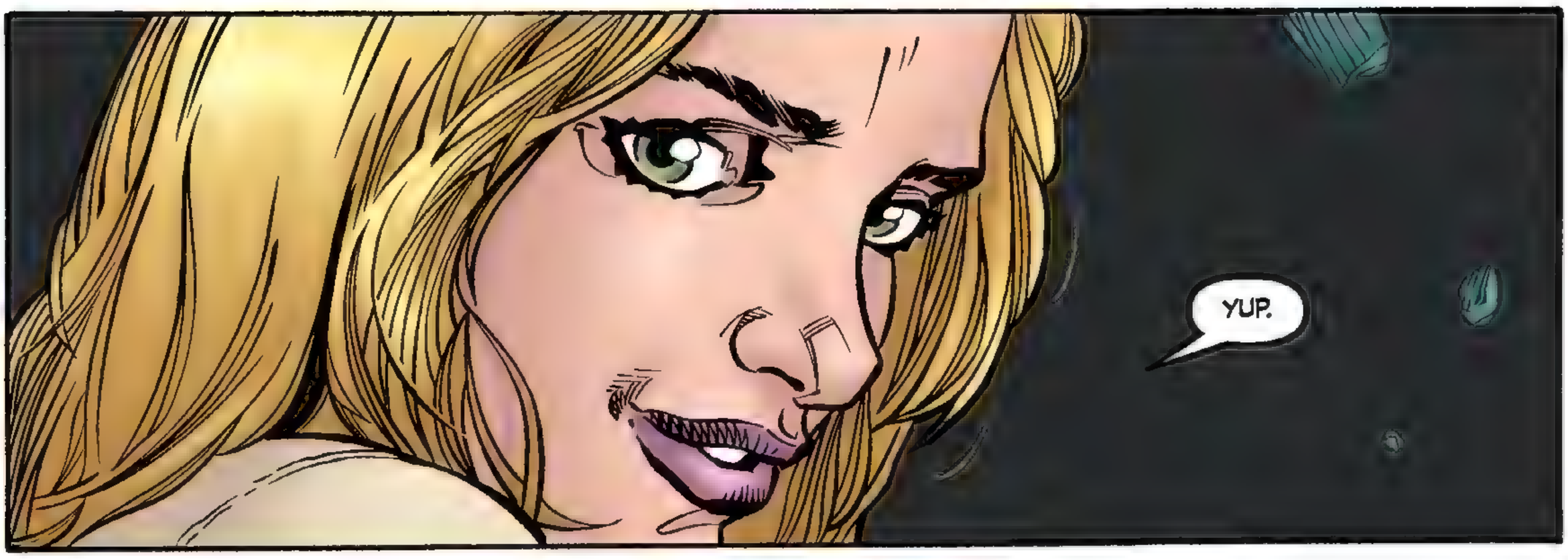
DON'T YOU KNOW ME BY NOW, ANGEL?

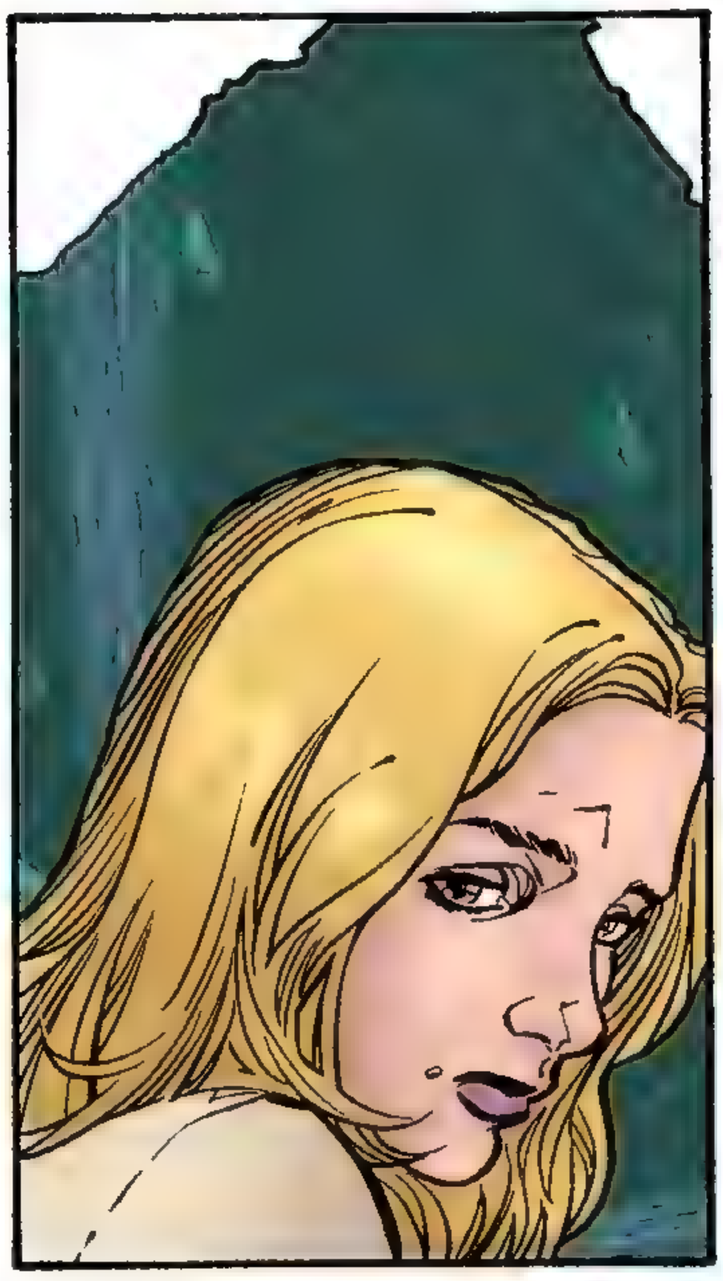
I *NEVER* DO WHAT I'M MEANT FOR.

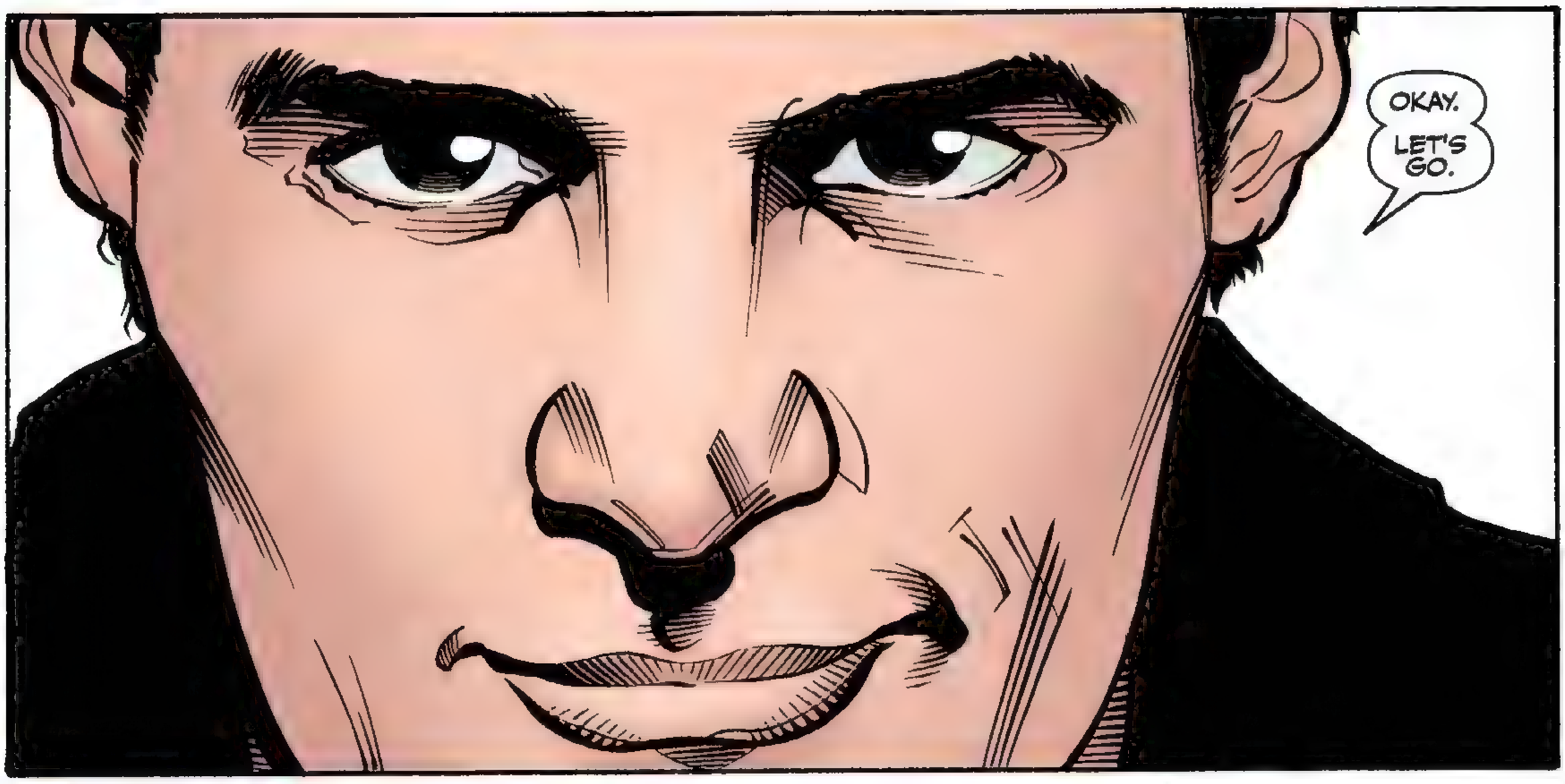
RRRR

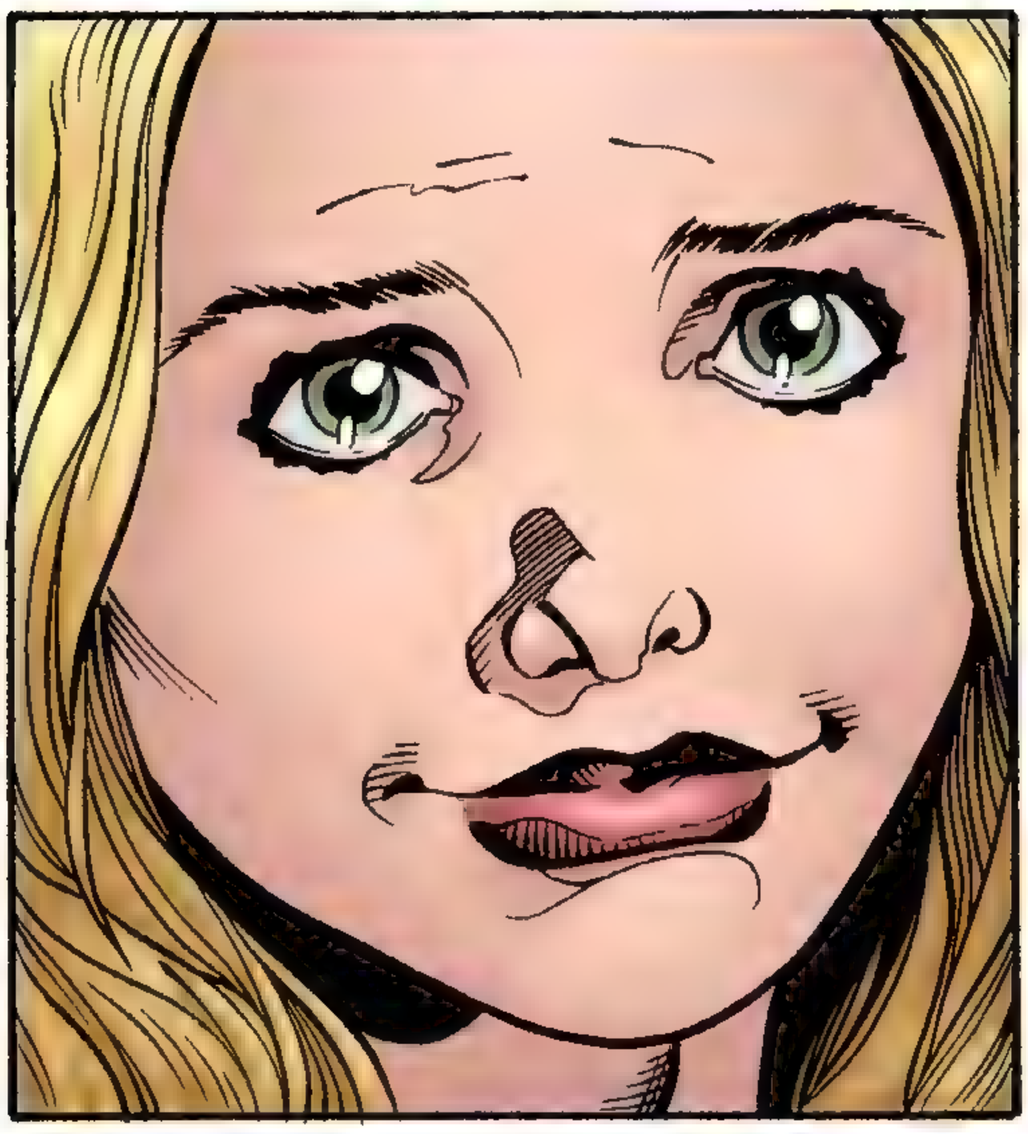
IF YOU STAY HERE, WE CAN EVOLVE.
F#*% EVOLUTION.

SO YOU'LL JUST WALK AWAY AND IGNORE WHAT THE UNIVERSE HAS SPENT MILLIONS OF YEARS SETTING IN MOTION?


YUP.

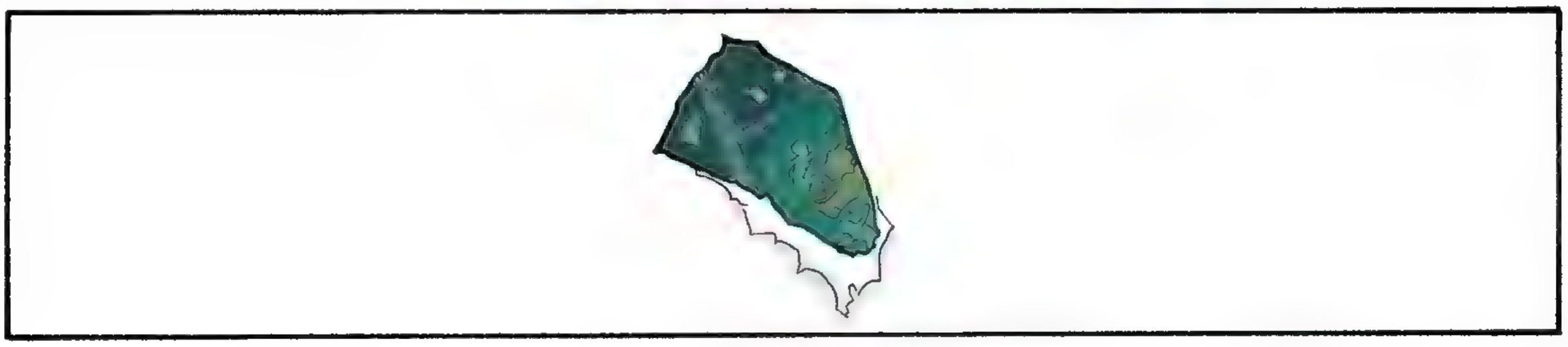



OKAY.
LET'S GO.



I DID MISS YOU.
I MISSED YOU TOO.

I'LL TAKE THE ONES ON THE LEFT.
THEN I GET THE ONES ON THE RIGHT.



BUFFY!

BUFFY!

BUFFY!

AND...TWILIGHT.

CAN I JUST MENTION THAT I PREFERRED ANGELUS?

HAD THAT COMING...

WHAT YOU GOT COMING YOU BETTER HOPE NEVER COMES. GO SLAY.

HOW MANY OF THESE THINGS ARE THERE?

UH, INFINITY-ISH?

WILLOW, I'M SORRY...

I KNOW, I KNOW--YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME ALL OVER YOU.

WE'VE GOT ANOTHER ATTACK COMING!

THEY'VE GOT A WEAPON ON THIS ONE!

I SEE IT!

THAT'S NOT A WEAPON!

THAT'S--

OH, THIS IS GONNA BE GOOD.

R-R-R-R-M-B-L-E

IS THAT--?

OH, THIS IS GONNA BE BAD.

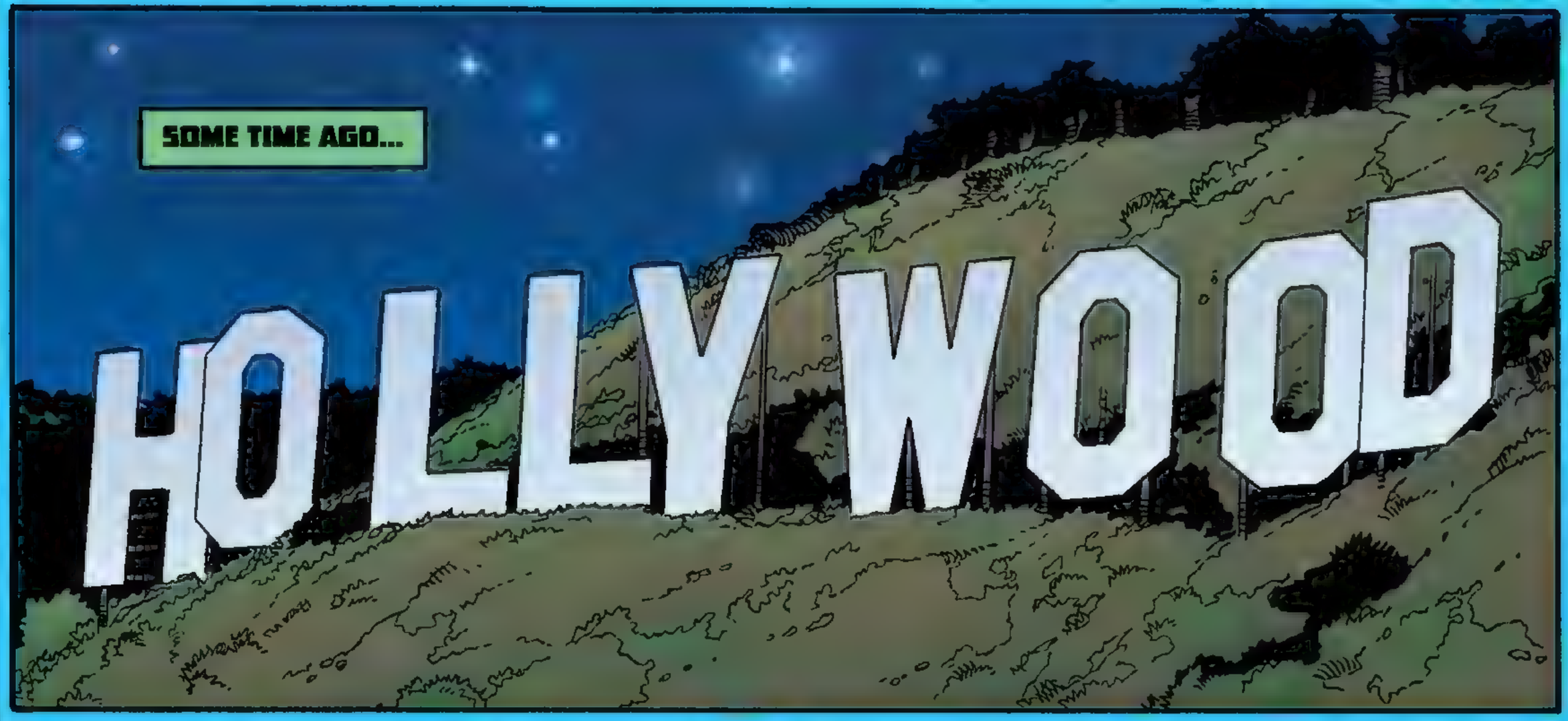
ENOUGH OF THIS.

YOU WANNA PUT THESE DEMONS DOWN AND END THIS "*TWILIGHT*" CRAP ONCE AND FOR ALL?

...YOU TALK TO *ME.*

LAST GLEAMING

PART ONE



THUUUMM

NNNAAHHH... WHERE...

WHERE AMMMMAKK!!

RUINS.

SOMETIMES I FORGET THAT'S ALL THE WORLD IS.

I FLASH BACK TO THE L.A. I LIVED IN, THAT I TRIED TO SAVE, AND FOR A MOMENT IT SEEMS LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED.

LIKE WE NEVER LOST THE WAR.

I LOOK AND EXPECT TO SEE LIGHTS.

JUST FOR A MOMENT.

HMM.

LONG MOMENT.

OH, IT'S THERE ALL RIGHT.

UM... HELLO?

I KNOW, I'M A DOG. WHAT A WORLD, RIGHT?

OR, MORE SPECIFICALLY, WHAT WORLD?

RELAX, IT'S YOURS. BACK THE WAY IT WAS MEANT TO BE.

THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.

YOUR WORLD IS RESTORED. I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S ***AWESOME.***

ARE YOU HERE TO TELL ME I'VE GOT A HIGHER PURPOSE?

YOU BETCHA.

DOES IT INVOLVE KILLING?

WISH I COULD SAY IT DIDN'T.

SEE, THAT'S WHERE YOU LOSE ME. PRETTY SURE THE LAST GUY A DOG TOLD TO KILL WAS THE ***SON OF SAM.***

COME ON, I'M NOT A DOG. I'M TALKING ***THROUGH*** THE DOG. HE WAS NEARBY.

I AM A POWER WITHOUT NAME, FROM A REALM FAR ABOVE YOUR PETTY--

HEY! BALLS!

IF THIS IS A DREAM, I'M GETTING A SHRINK LIKE WESLEY BEGGED.

HAHNANUMM-A-NUMMA-SLURP

MMNN... HO! WAIT!

WAIT! WHOAH! I CAN'T HELP IT!

I'M HOUSED IN THIS ANIMAL. IT'S COMPLICATED!

NOT A FAN OF "COMPLICATED."

I KNOW. EVEN WHEN THINGS GET THE MOST COMPLICATED, YOU REMAIN DOGGEDLY SIMPLE. THAT'S PART OF WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN.

AND *DEFINITELY* TWITCHY ABOUT "CHOSEN."

YEAH, THAT'S A HOT BUTTON FOR YOU, EVEN NOW.

THAT GOOFY LITTLE CHEERLEADER REALLY SPUN YOU RIGHT ROUND, DIDN'T SHE?

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THAT?

THREATENING BUFFY WON'T MAKE ME DO SOMETHING STUPID, IF THAT'S YOUR ANGLE.

I KEEP WAITING FOR YOU TO FEEL IT.

FEEL WHAT?

BETTER GET STARTED.

NOOO--

--OOO--

HOLLYWOOD

--OOOO
OO
OOOOOKAY,
THIS IS ACTUALLY
HAPPENING...

LET'S SEE WHAT
WE'VE GOT.

THUD

AIEEE

HELP!

ceanic

KRASH

OH THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU --

UH, IT WAS NOTHING, MA'AM.

SINCE WHEN DO I SAY "MA'AM"?

SINCE YOU GOT ALL SUPER, STUPID.

AM I TALKING TO THE DOG?

I WON'T TAKE THAT PERSONALLY. YES AND NO.

YOU JUST FLEW. WITHOUT A DRAGON UNDER YOUR BUTT. AND YOU LANDED A 747 WITHOUT SO MUCH AS AN ENERGY DRINK.

WANNA COME BACK TO MY PLACE SO I CAN THANK YOU PROPERLY?

YES, I'M TALKING THROUGH ANOTHER VESSEL. THE PHRASING WAS HERS, BUT THE SENTIMENT IS MINE.

THE SENTIMENT BEING...?

"THANK YOU." NOT FOR THE PLANE, WHICH WAS NICELY HANDLED, BUT FOR THE REST.

STOP ACTING LIKE IT'S SUCH A TRIAL. YOU HAVE POWER. IT'S NOT A TRICK.

IT'S CALLED A *REWARD*, AND BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY...

...IT MAKES *"SHANSHU"* LOOK LIKE A SACK A' CRAP.

SOME OTHER TIME AGO...

WOOOO-HOOOO!!!!

THUD

GLORIOUS LEADER TO BUG ONE...

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE *WANKERS*?

HOW D'YA LIKE ME NOW, Y'WANKERS!?!

WE'VE LOST THE WANKERS, YOUR MAJESTY. HOWEVER...

...I THINK WE MAY HAVE LOST MUCH MORE.

HAHHLLLLOO.

WE SEEM TO HAVE GONE OFF COURSE.

YOUR MAJESTY?

WE SEEM TO BE DIVING TOWARD A BIG CLOCK.

RAMMING SPEED, YOUR MAJESTY?

TURN! JUST *TURN!*

ON THE OTHER HAND...

FUNNY...

WELL. I'VE MISSED A LOT, HAVEN'T I?

"TERRORIST BUFFY SUMMERS"?

"SLAYER JIHAD"?

"HARMONY'S F@#%ING BEAUTY TIPS"?!

SHE HAS DONE SOMETHING MARVELOUS. BUT IT WILL BRING THE WORLD DOWN ON HER.

HER ENEMIES WILL COME AT HER FROM ALL SIDES...

...UNLESS THEY ALL STAND BEHIND YOU.

THAT'S THE SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE. SOME OF THE SLAYERS' VICTIMS HAD IT ON THEM. THERE'S A SECRET SECT FIGHTING AGAINST THE FASCIST SLAYER ARMY, AND THAT'S THEIR LEADER'S MARK. I'M THINKING OF GETTING IT TATTOOED ON MY ANKLE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

YOU ARE FOR VAMPIRE RIGHTS, AREN'T YOU? I THINK IT'S DREADFUL WHAT THEY'VE ENDURED. I DO SO WISH I COULD GET BIT.

TWILIGHT

JUUSSST KEEP TALKING...

THERE WILL BE BLOODSHED. THIS IS INEVITABLE. BUT YOU CAN TAKE HER BEYOND THE BATTLE, TO A WORLD WITHOUT WAR, WITHOUT CONSTRAINTS. THIS IS YOUR TRUE DESTINY.

FOCUS HER ANGER. BE THE TARGET OF HER POWER, AND IT WILL COME TO HER. WHAT SHE FEELS MUST BE PURE; SHE CANNOT BE DISTRACTED BY HER FEELINGS FOR YOU.

UNTIL IT'S TIME, SHE CANNOT KNOW.

THE ONLY FOOTAGE OF THE LEADER OF THE SO-CALLED "TWILIGHT" CULT WAS TAKEN ON A CELL PHONE BY A MAN IN EDINBURGH WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN --

COME ON ALREADY...

"NO ONE CAN KNOW."

OOH, THAT'D BE ANGEL, THEN.

You

SLAYERS

INCOMING!!!

NOW.

LET'S MOVE, PEOPLE AND NEAR-PEOPLE!

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, THERE ARE GIANTS IN THE SKY!

UH, INCOMING...

ANNND...

...OUTGOING.

HOW ARE THE ONES ON THE RIGHT?

NOT LOVING LIFE...

BUFFY, I DON'T TRUST HIM.

ANGEL, I DON'T TRUST *YOU.*

BUT YOU HAVE MY HEART, SO WHAT CAN I DO.

AND HE HAS A SHIP, SO WHAT CAN--

IT'S TOO CONVENIENT. HIM SHOWING UP NOW.

"HE'S GOT AN AGENDA.

"WELL, IT'S LIKELY TO BE A LOT SIMPLER THAN YOURS. AND RIGHT NOW IT'S USEFUL."

THE LAST TIME I SAW SPIKE, HE DIED SAVING ME AND MY PEOPLE.

HE TOLD ME LIKE FOUR THOUSAND TIMES.

I'LL BET. BUT I'M NOT GONNA FRET ABOUT HIS TIMING RIGHT NOW.

WOULD YOU HAVE PREFERRED HE SHOWED UP A FEW HOURS AGO?

THIS IS THE WEIRDEST, BESTEST, WEIRDEST BEST DAY OF MY LIFE.

WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME, I CAN'T DESCRIBE. I CAN'T *PRONOUNCE.*

YOU GAVE ME PERFECTION, AND YOU GAVE IT UP.

JESUS, ANGEL, THAT'S NOT JUST THE LOVE OF MY LIFE. THAT'S THE GUY I WOULD LIVE IT WITH.

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME TO GO.

QUIT WITH THE PSYCHIC, YOU.

SPIKE *HAS* AN AGENDA. HE WON'T REVEAL IT WITH YOU AROUND. AND THE OTHERS...

MRRAUGHK!

POIT

WHOAH HEY I MISSED MY BAD.

POIT

POINT TAKEN.

I DON'T.

YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM.

WHAT WE DID... IT RELEASED THESE DEMONS. ALL OVER.

THEY'RE GONNA TARGET SLAYERS.

ARE YOU SURE--

WELL, EVERYONE *ELSE* HAS. YOU CAN MAKE UP FOR A LOT OF DAMAGE, ANGEL. I NEED YOU TO.

I THINK YOU NEED IT TOO.

YOU SAVE AS MANY AS YOU CAN.

AND I GET SPIKE'S PIECE OF THIS PUZZLE.

IS THAT ALL YOU WANT FROM HIM?

THAT'S BENEATH YOU, BABY.

I GOT MORE POWERFUL, NOT REMOTELY MATURE.

I'LL FIND YOU SOON.

YOU BETTER.

THE CREW IS BUGS, THE CREW IS BUGS, THE BUGS ARE LARGE...
DEEP BREATH...
THE AIR IS BUGS, I'M BREATHING BUGS...
WHERE'S THE MAN-BITCH FORMERLY KNOWN AS ANGEL?
PROTECTING SLAYERS. HIS HENCHMEN?
IN A LITTLE ROOM AWAY FROM THE REST, AND UNDER MY SEAL.
FULL STEAM AHEAD, BUG ONE!
I'M BUG THREE.
I'M THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED COLOR-CODED JUMPERS...
I'M *NAVIGATING* HERE...
LET'S DO THIS IN ORDER.
ONE, THANKS FOR SAVING US FROM THE ÜBERVAMPS, THAT WAS CRAZY STUDLY AND SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN IN TOUCH, BUT, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M SOMEHOW LEADING AN ARMY.
YOU'RE WEL--
TWO, WHAT DO YOU KNOW AND HOW CAN YOU HELP? NO JOKES NO SNARK NO BRITISH SLANG THAT JUST MEANS SOMETHING DIRTY.
ONE, UNDER ALL THAT DEMON VISCERA, YOU STILL REEK OF HIM, AND THAT'S NOT A TREAT FOR ME--BUT IT CAN'T BE BUFFY IF SHE DOESN'T BONK THE BAD GUY, RIGHT?
SNARK!
COMES WITH THE SIZABLE PACKAGE. *TWO:* YOU CAN UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES TRUST HIM.
CAN EVERYBODY JUST AGREE NOT TO TRUST ANYBODY AND YOU GET TO THE FRIKKIN' POINT?
BEEN TO ANY HIGHER DIMENSIONS LATELY?
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT. TOOK ME A WHILE--AND A LOT OF FAVORS--TO PIECE IT TOGETHER, BUT I KNOW A FEW THINGS WELL WORTH REMEMBERING.
YOU ASCENDED. YOU OPENED A GATEWAY TO A NEW REALITY--SCRATCH THAT, YOU *CREATED* A NEW REALITY WITH YOUR NUDEY SHENANIGANS...
...AND THEN YOU ABANDONED IT.

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE DEMONS THAT POURED IN ONCE THE GREAT SPACE HYMEN RIPPED OPEN. I'M TALKING ABOUT A UNIVERSE.

DITCHED AT BIRTH.

YOU THINK WE'VE GOT TROUBLE NOW?

WE DO, SO GO AHEAD AND THINK IT. BUT, PET...

...YOU BETTER PRAY THAT HIGHER REALITY DOESN'T COME LOOKING FOR MUMMY.

NOW. TELL ME ABOUT NOW.

YOU SAID YOU KNEW WHAT EVERYONE WAS LOOKING FOR.

WELL, YEAH, IT'S WHAT ALL THIS COMES FROM. IT'S WHAT CAN STOP ALL THIS.

THE SEED.

WE'RE DIGGING UP THE *SEED OF WONDER.*

THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN SPEAKING.

WE ARE CURRENTLY ON COURSE TO THE HEART OF ALL MAGIC ON EARTH, AND SORRY, TREE FANS: IT'S NOT STONEHENGE.

THERE WAS, ONE TIME, A HOUSE OF WORSHIP... SWALLOWED UP BY THE EARTH.

OVER WHICH THEY BUILT A CITY...

...ALSO SWALLOWED BY THE EARTH.

WE'RE HEADED FOR THE HEART, MY FRIENDS...

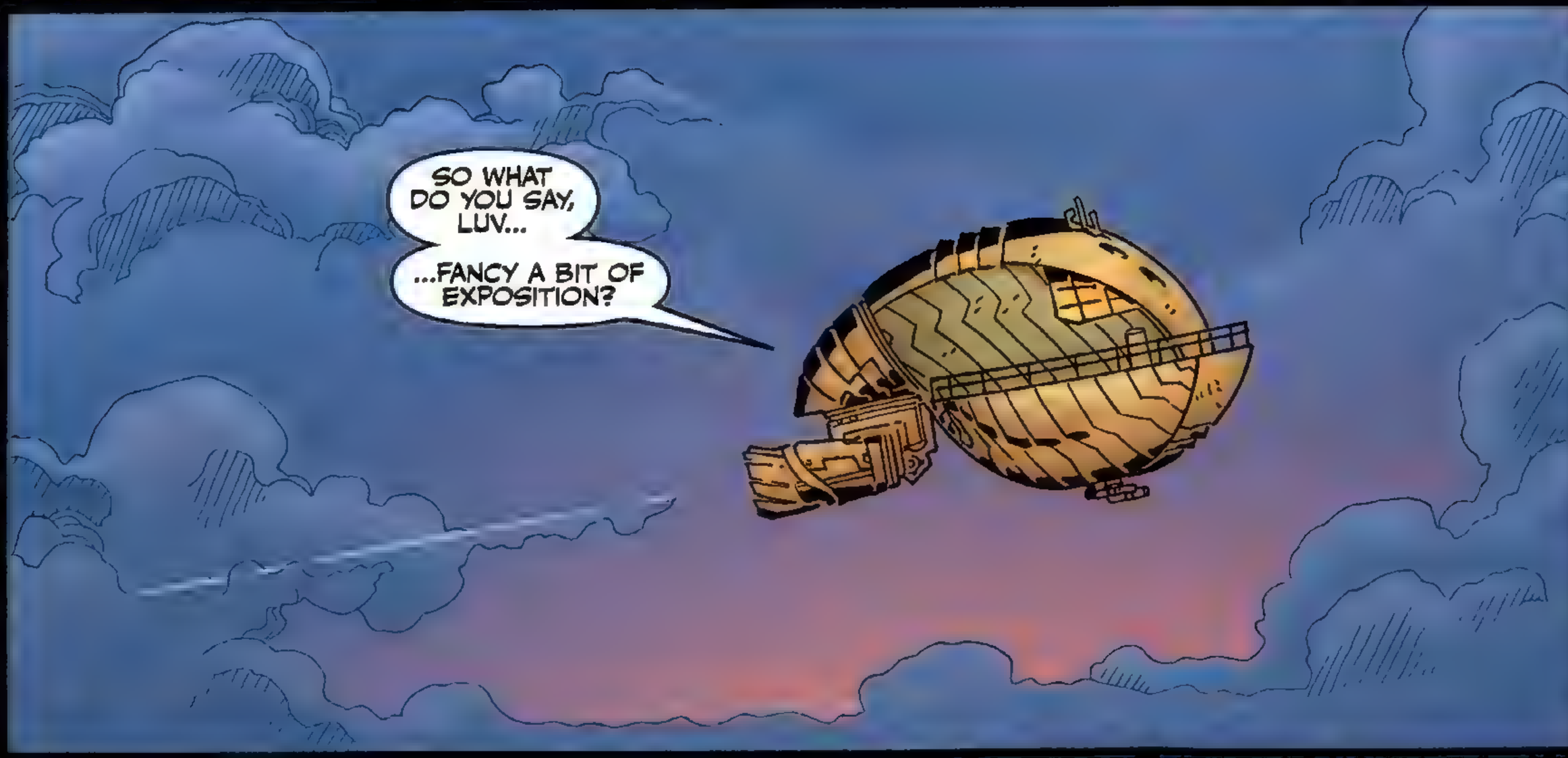
"...AND WHERE THE HEART IS... IS HOME."

KIDS.

THEY ONLY VISIT WHEN THEY NEED SOMETHING.

LAST GLEAMING

PART TWO



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE HOT WATER ON THIS THING.

ALSO, SIDEBAR: WHAT IS THIS THING?

TALE FOR ANOTHER TIME, PET. WE'VE GOT TO FOCUS ON WHAT'S AHEAD.

WHAT'S AHEAD IS WHAT SHOULD BE BEHIND. SUCKYDALE.

"HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN--"

"JIGGEDY JIG." WHAT'S THE SEED OF WONDER AND WHY IS IT THERE.

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE. BEFORE YOU, BEFORE HUMANS... BEFORE THE FIRST, EVEN, WHICH HAS A NICE IRONY.

AND IT IS...

JUST WHAT THE NAME IMPLIES.

THE SOURCE OF ALL THE MAGIC IN THE WORLD.

"THE WORLD CAME FROM THE SEED. IT WAS ALL DEMONS AND HORRORS, THEN.

"PROBABLY SPILLOVER FROM SOME OTHER, EVEN LESS PLEASANT DIMENSION. THE SEED BROUGHT IT FORTH...

"...AND THE SEED KEPT IT HERE.

"KEPT THE WARRING NASTIES AND THE BUBBLING MAGICAL ENERGIES FROM SEEPING BACK INTO THE OLD DIMENSION, WHEREVER *THAT* WAS.

"EITHER THE EARTH WAS AN IMPROVEMENT, A STEP UP, OR IT WAS A GHETTO. EITHER WAY, IT WAS ON ITS OWN.

"THE SEED, THE SOURCE OF ALL THAT MAGIC, WAS THE ONLY THING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO KEEP IT FROM BLEEDING BACK.

"IT'S THE KEY."

LIKE DAWN IS A KEY?

FORGET "KEY." THINK "CORK."

AS LONG AS IT'S IN ITS PLACE--THE HELLMOUTH, MORE RECENTLY KNOWN AS SUNNYDALE--THINGS STAY MORE OR LESS WHERE THEY SHOULD.

BUT PULL IT OUT...

POOH

WOW. PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE IMPRESSIVE IF SOMETHING POURED OUT.

LIKE IF YOU HELD IT UPSIDE DOWN--

IT'S A SEVENTY-YEAR-OLD MADEIRA. I'M NOT DUMPING IT ON THE FLOOR JUST 'CAUSE YOU HAVE NO IMAGINATION--

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE A BIG THING WITH THE CORK--

THE POINT IS--

--IF THE SEED'S REMOVED, THE WORLD GOES BYE.

BUT IT'S SAFE IN THE GROUND, BURIED UNDER THIS DISASTER AND THAT, WITH ITS PROTECTOR AT ITS SIDE...

PROTECTOR?

I'LL GET TO THAT. POINT IS, BOTTLE CORKED, WORLD SAFE, NOTHING TO FEAR.

UNLESS A COUPLE OF SUPER-POWERED MORONS WHO NEVER GOT A HIGHER EDUCATION DECIDE TO SHAG A UNIVERSE INTO EXISTENCE.

THAT WASN'T OUR FAULT!

NOBODY SAID IT WAS EXCEPT ME RIGHT NOW TO YOUR FACE.

THE UNIVERSE PLANNED THAT. IT SET US UP!

IT WASN'T LIKE WE WERE OUT OF CONTROL...THOUGH WE KIND OF WERE...IT WAS LIKE...

ELEMENTAL. LIKE WE WERE OUTSIDE OURSELVES, IN EACH OTHER... LIKE WE WERE THE WIND THAT SWEPT US UP.

CAN YOU THINK OF A SINGLE CREATURE ON ANY PLANE OF EXISTENCE THAT WANTS TO HEAR THIS LESS?

I'M SORRY. I'M STILL FEELING...

LIKE SOMETHING GOT SWITCHED ON AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TURN IT OFF. I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE TELLING YOU THAT, BUT...

...BUT YOU WERE THE GUY I TOLD THE THINGS I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO TELL.

YOU'RE MY DARK PLACE, SPIKE.

...AND THAT'S HOW WE CAN STOP THE WORLD FROM BEING DESTROYED.

WHAH?

GOT IT?

WAIT! WHAH, UM... WHAT WAS THE MIDDLE PART?

NO WONDER GILES SAID YOU WERE A CRAP STUDENT.

NO, I'M JUST... SO MANY THINGS AT ONCE...BUSY MIND... TIRED...

AFTER-EFFECTS...

YEAH, NO MYSTERY WHO YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT.

NO MYSTERY! ALREADY SOLVED. LET'S GO BACK JUST A TEENY BIT.

I'LL SAVE IT FOR THE GROUP. WE'VE GOT A WAYS TO GO...

WHY DON'T WE GET YOU INTO BED?

BED?

FOR SLEEP! ALONE! YES...

TIRED. SUPER TIRED. NEED TO REST.

GOD...MY BRAIN'S TURNING INTO *CINEMAX* OVER HERE...

DON'T THINK ABOUT BUGS. DON'T THINK ABOUT BUGS. A GOOD THING TO THINK ABOUT WOULD BE NOT BUGS.

I'M NOT USUALLY A FAN, BUT THEY DO RUN A TIGHT SHIP.

WHAT IF WE GOT A PLACE TOGETHER?

A PLACE?

ASSUMING WE SURVIVE--AND I ASSUME--WE COULD GET AN APARTMENT. JUST US--NOT A HUNDRED SLAYERS. YOU COULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL, I'D GET WORK, SUPPORT US IN BARELY-ABOVE-THE-POVERTY-LINE STYLE...TOO MUCH TOO SOON?

TOO GOOD.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. IT'S WHAT I'VE WANTED FOR...WELL, A WHILE...

BUT NOW XANDER, THIS TIME, THIS WAR...

HOW CAN WE HOPE TO GET THROUGH IT?

<GO FOR THE FLANKS-- YOU CAN'T GET NEAR THE THROAT!>

<ACTUALLY, YOU'RE GOING TO GET PRETTY CL-->

?

CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND?

SLASH

"THE SEED OF WONDER WAS IN SUNNYDALE ALL ALONG...?"

<TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE>

...I JUST DON'T SEE HOW I DIDN'T REALIZE THIS BEFORE...

YOU HAD A LOT OF PROPHECIES TO SORT THROUGH. IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.

THE ONLY ADVANTAGE WE'VE GOT IS THAT WE KNOW WHERE THE SEED IS. AND THE EARTH DEMONS WON'T WANT THE NEW-UNIVERSE DEMONS TO GET IT.

'CAUSE IF THEY DO...

WELL, IMAGINE THIS BOTTLE IS UPSIDE DOWN...

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT *THE DEMONS* WANT? HOW DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THIS?

THREE WORDS, LITTLE MAN.

I SPEAK FYARL.

BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPL--

FROM THE MOMENT THAT SEED WAS PLANTED, TWILIGHT WAS AN INEVITABILITY.

EVERYTHING HAS A LIFE SPAN...

...MAYBE EARTH'S TIME IS JUST UP.

BUT WE'RE GONNA GO WITH THE OTHER THEORY, RIGHT, WHERE IT'S NOT.

OHH...

WILL!

OH. HI.

I LIKE THE OTHER WAY OF GETTING HERE BETTER.

SOON YOU'LL HAVE NO WAY OF COMING HERE.

NOT SO WORRIED ABOUT THAT, ALUWYN, WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD'S THIS CLOSE TO BEING SWALLOWED BY A HELL DIMENSION.

YOU ***HEROES*** WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN. YOU WON'T LET TWILIGHT OPEN THE GATEWAY TO HELL.

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER OPTION, WHICH YOUR VAMPIRE OR YOUR WATCHER WILL ARRIVE AT EVENTUALLY.

WITH THE SEED REMOVED, THE GATE OPENS WIDE. THAT'S WHAT TWILIGHT WANTS. MOTHER EARTH DESTROYED... SO THE NEW WORLD CAN THRIVE--

--THE QUEEN, DEAD--LONG LIVE THE QUEEN.

BUT HELL ONLY POURS IN IF YOU REMOVE THE SEED. TO BELABOR YOUR VAMPIRE'S METAPHOR... HAVE YOU EVER BROKEN A CORK INSIDE THE BOTTLE? YOU'LL ***NEVER*** GET THIS ONE OUT, AND THE WINE WILL BE FOREVER TRAPPED.

DESTROY THE SEED, THE GATE AND THE PATH ARE GONE. HELL HAS NO AVENUE TO YOUR WORLD.

YAY?

AND YOU HAVE A WORLD WITHOUT MAGIC.

THERE WOULD BE VESTIGES, REMNANTS OF DEMONIC POWER-- VAMPIRES, THE SLAYERS ALREADY CALLED--BUT THE CONNECTION TO ALL OTHER REALMS WOULD BE SEVERED. YOUR WORLD WILL LOSE SOMETHING IT DOESN'T KNOW IT NEEDS.

AND THOSE WHO DRAW THEIR POWER FROM ELSEWHERE--THE WITCHES--LOSE EVERYTHING.

IT'S NOT ONLY TWILIGHT YOU HAVE TO STOP, WILLOW.

BUFFY HAD A VISION THAT SOMEONE CLOSE WOULD BETRAY HER. YOU KNOW WHO IT IS, DON'T YOU?

BUFFY!

WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE SEED...

SIFAR SHH CARSEE TEFONO!

SOMEBODY SHUT THIS GUY UP.

HACK

FWOOOSH

MERCI.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE THESE THINGS COMING FROM?
YEAH. HUH.
LONG STORY.
EXCUSE ME.
AND THEY JUST KEEP COMING...
SHOOK
AND NOW I SMELL LIKE *THAT* THING.
SPLASH

BUT YOU WERE RIGHT, BUFFY.

I DO NEED THIS.

FAITH.

HOW'S OUR STRATEGY COMING?

THERE'S NOT A GREAT DEAL WE CAN PLAN FOR. WE NEED TO LOCATE THE, AH, SEED, PRESUMABLY BENEATH SUNNYDALE, AND PREVENT ITS REMOVAL.

SOUNDS GOOD. JUST POINT ME AT THE THREAT, AND LEMME GO.

FAITH...

GILES.

I KNOW THAT THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU WANTED. BUT THE SITUATION ESCALATED SO MUCH MORE QUICKLY THAN WE IMAGINED...

AND I'M THE BIG GUNS. I'M READY TO BRING IT.

BUT AFTER, FAITH, THERE'LL STILL BE GIRLS TO HELP. TO GUIDE.

SURE HOPE SO.

WELL WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!

WAR.

MY WAR.

THIS IS IT.

BUG ONE! ALL CANNONS FORWARD!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY!

SHIELDS UP!

WE HAVE SHIELDS, YEAH...?

BUFFY! WILLOW! COULD USE YOU FRONT AND CENTER--!

SHHRAACK

BUFFY.

WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE SEED.

NOT JUST FROM THE DEMONS. *NO ONE* CAN GET NEAR IT.

NO ONE WILL.

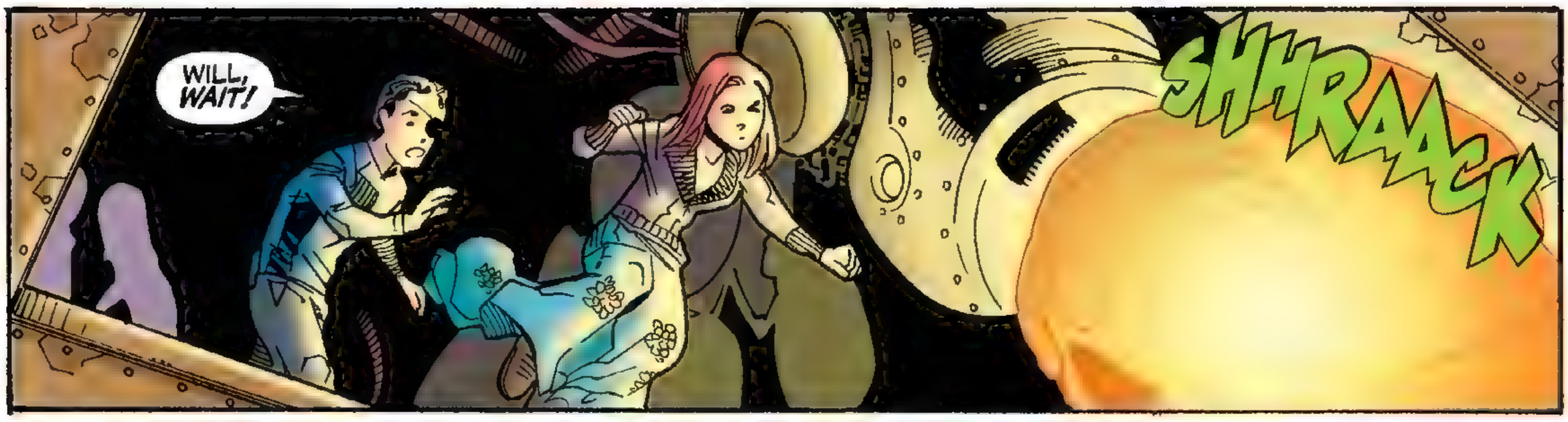
SHHRAACK

NOT *ALONE*, YOU DON'T!

I CAN FEEL IT.

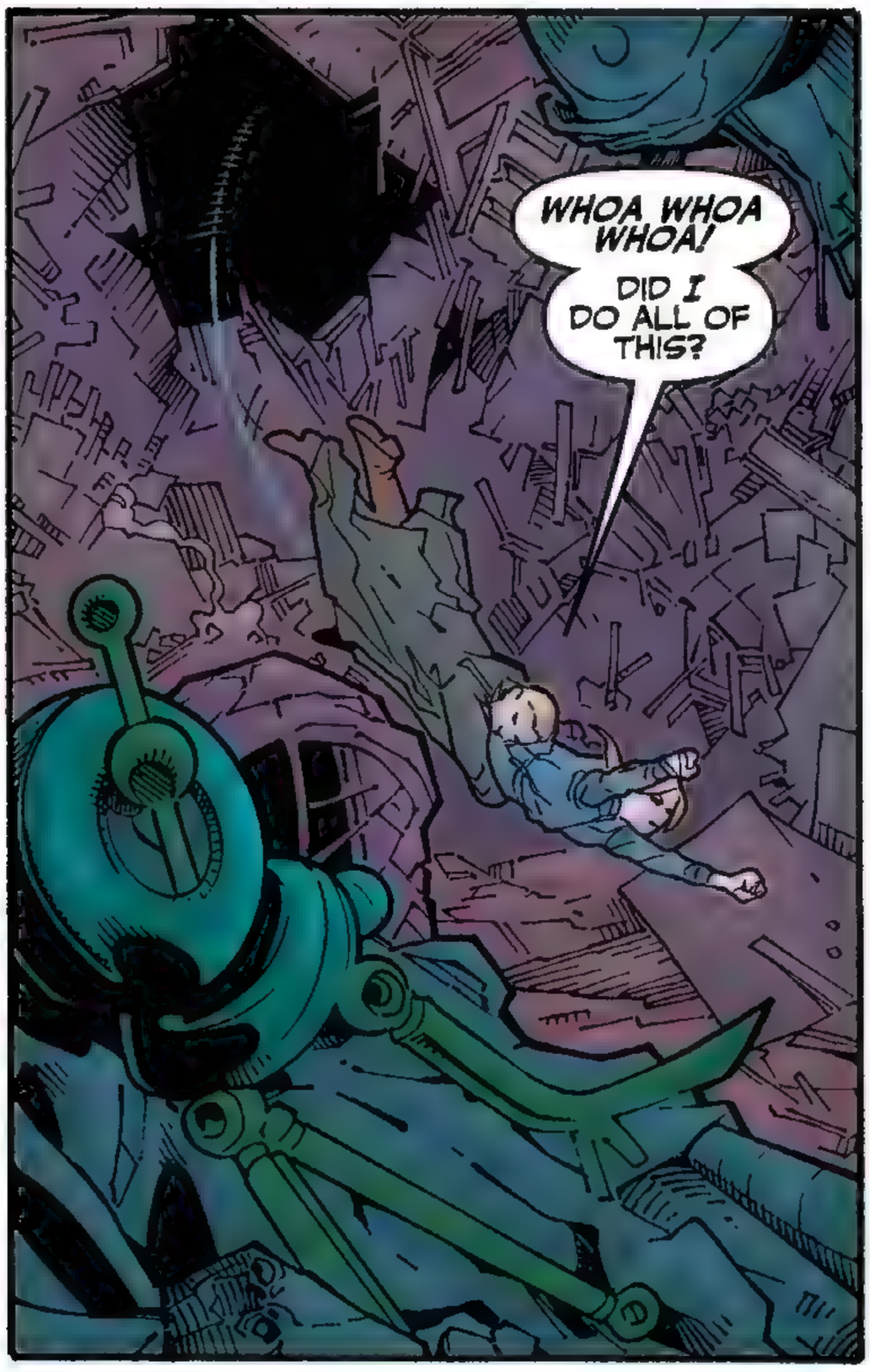
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, THE WAR ENDS HERE.

SPIKE'S TOTALLY TOUCHING MY BUTT.


WILL, WAIT!
SHHRAACK

IT'S SUNNYDALE.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS.

TAKE US HOME.


WHOA WHOA WHOA!
DID I DO ALL OF THIS?

YEAH, YA DID. WHERE'S THE SEED?
YOU ARE A HELL OF A RIDE, LOVE, AS I'VE MENTIONED BEFORE. BUT MY GEOGRAPHY'S A BIT TURNED ROUND RIGHT NOW.

WAAK

OH, RIGHT. PROTECTOR.

CRUNCH

IT SAID YOU'D COME--

ALTHOUGH SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WITH THE OTHER ONE.

THWACK

TWILIGHT. PFFT.

YOU THINK YOUR NEW WORLD IS WORTHY OF *THIS* POWER?

YOU'VE CREATED NOTHING.

A SOULLESS SHELL--NO MATTER WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK OF IT.

AND *THIS* IS WHAT YOU BRING FOR PROTECTION?

NOT PROTECTION.

DISTRACTION.

CRACK

I'M SORRY...

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT POWER.

MY HERO.

OKAY.

GOT TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT.

IT'LL BE A FIGHT, ALL RIGHT.

YOUR WORK ISN'T NEARLY DONE.

I LIKED IT WHEN YOU WERE THE DOG BETTER.

OH, I WAS JUST TALKING *THROUGH* THOSE FORMS...

...FATHER.

THE REAL ME WASN'T BORN YET.

BUT I'M HERE NOW, FATHER.

YOU CAN'T DENY THE UNIVERSE YOU CREATED.

YOU WILL FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED.

LAST GLEAMING

PART THREE

WHAT ABOUT THIS HAS BEEN EASY?

ABANDONING ME. YOUR CHILD.

YOUR NEW WORLD.

BAM

MOTHER REJECTED ME FOR LACK OF *CONFLICT*. LOOK AT THIS PLACE, THOUGH!

IT IS SO CLEARLY WANING.

I WILL BE MORE MONSTROUS, MORE BEAUTIFUL, THAN ANYTHING SHE HAS EVER FEARED OR FANTASIZED.

YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE UP FIGHTING?

I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE, IF NOT FOR HER.

LOOK AROUND YOU. THE QUEEN IS DEAD.

WAK

LONG LIVE ME.

IT WAS BUFFY WHO SET IT ALL IN MOTION, WHEN SHE ACTIVATED THE OTHER SLAYERS--

SHUNK

BUT IT'S YOU WHO WILL FINISH IT.

WHO WILL BRING ME THE SEED. MY SOUL.

NO. THERE'LL BE NO TWILIGHT.

FATHER, THERE ALREADY IS.

IT'S YOU.

"SO THIS SEED'S THAT IMPORTANT--"

--AND IT'S GOT *HIM* DEFENDING IT?

YOU KNEW THE MASTER WAS ALIVE AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE?

THE WORD IMPORTANT ISN'T *IMPORTANT* ENOUGH FOR HOW IMPORTANT IT IS.

MY SOURCES SAID THE SEED ENSLAVED A POWERFUL VAMPIRE EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS AGO--*YOU* LOT SUPPOSEDLY *KILLED* HIM.

DEATH IS NOTHING TO THE SEED.

IT RESTORED ME WHEN TWILIGHT CHOSE ANGELUS...

I SORT OF THOUGHT HE'D SHOW...

OH, HE'LL BE AROUND LATER TO TAKE CREDIT FOR EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU FRET.

BEFORE TWILIGHT, I HADN'T THOUGHT THE SEED WAS REAL...MUCH LESS UNDER OUR NOSES...

SO IT WAS JUST HIDING BEHIND THE HELLMOUTH, PULLING THE MASTER'S STRINGS ALL THOSE YEARS--ALL THOSE LIVES--WITHOUT HIM KNOWING?

I WOULDN'T WORD IT EXACTLY LIKE THAT...

THAT EXPLAINS THE WEIRD FACE I CAN'T WAIT TO HIT AGAIN...

MY FACE?

I GET IT. LITTLE TOO MUCH TIME AROUND HIS PRECIOUSSSSSS...

YOU THINK YOU UNDERSTAND *THE SEED?* YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND *TWILIGHT!*

REMOVE THE SEED, AND YOU *DOOM* YOUR WORLD!

HAS SHE TOLD YOU THERE'S A *PLACE* IN HER NEW WORLD FOR YOU? *NO*--SHE AND ANGELUS WILL SEE YOU ALL DEAD!

WOW, THIS GUY IS ***REALLY*** CHALLENGED BY THE MAJOR PLOT POINTS.

HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.

SLAYER'S ***DONE*** WITH TWILIGHT. END OF THE WORLD, HELL DIMENSIONS COME POURING IN, WE'RE ALL FIRMLY AGAINST IT--

"--PROBLEM IS, DEMONS ARE MOVING IN ALREADY, ANTICIPATING THE REMOVAL OF YOUR COSMIC BAUBLE."

SPEAKING OF WHICH, GUYS, I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING VERY WELL UP THERE.

...OR DOWN HERE.

BAM

GIVE US THE SSSSEED!

DAWN!

EVERYBODY...

NO, GOD...

TAKE THEM DOWN!

WHERE IS IT, WITCH?!

IGNIS.

FWOOSH

DAMMIT, RED, CAREFUL! I'M A BIT ALLERGIC TO BURSTING INTO--

BUFFY...

...CAN YOU CARRY YOUR SISTER?
JUST PUT ME DOWN.
SHE'S REALLY HEAVY.
YOU DID NOT JUST CALL ME HEAVY.
OW. IT'S PROBABLY JUST SPRAINED. AS MY HEAD'S--
STILL ON TOP OF YOUR NECK. XANDER...
SO, BY "HEAVY," I MEANT--
DON'T EVEN TRY.
YOU'RE STRONGER THAN EVER, SLAYER.
HELP ME GUARD THE SEED.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THE WORLD DESTROYED, COME--
I'LL GET HER TO SAFETY.
"--TOGETHER YOU AND--"
Crack

SPIKE, HOLD HIM.

YOU FOOL!

BUFFY, WAIT--!

WILL, IT'S *THE MASTER.* THIS IS KIND OF A NO-BRAINER--

NO, THIS *IS* A BRAINER.

"THERE'S AN INCOMING ARMY OF DEMONS UP THERE THAT WANNA REMOVE THE SEED.

"WE'RE AT WAR.

"AND WE'RE NOT WINNING.

"IF MAN-BAT-FACE WANTS WHAT *WE* WANT..."

HE'S GOTTA BE ON THE TEAM.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SIDE WITH OUR ORIGINAL BIG BAD-- NOW WE'RE WORKING *FOR* HIM.

THIS CRISIS HAS LED TO MANY UNLIKELY ALLIANCES, BUFFY. I DON'T KNOW THAT THE MASTER IS ANY WORSE THAN DRACULA.

A DEMON ALREADY ATTACHED TO THIS WORLD DOESN'T WANT THIS APOCALYPSE ANY MORE THAN YOU OR I.

IF HE'S GOT THE POWER OF THE SEED, WE MIGHT NEED HIM TO STOP TWILIGHT.

HE'S A MONSTER AND HE KILLED ME.

GRUDGE VALIDATED. MOVE ON.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AND SPIKE WERE ALWAYS B.F.F.'s--

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING US.

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN YOU FAINTED?

I DIDN'T FAINT, EXACTLY. I WAS SUMMONED.

YOU TALKED TO YOUR SNAKEY DEMON HOTTIE GIRLFRIEND, DIDN'T YOU?

IT SEEMS I'VE MISSED A GREAT DEAL.

IF SHE TOLD YOU SOMETHING ABOUT TWILIGHT, YOU *HAVE* TO TELL ME!

SO LISTEN!

IF THE SEED CAN CONNECT THE SPIRITUAL REALMS TO THIS NEW TWILIGHT SEX EDEN YOU CREATED, MAYBE WE CAN USE IT TO HEAL THE EARTH, CHASE THE DEMONS OUT--

"--MAYBE WE CAN USE IT TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER, BUFFY."

PERHAPS IT *WAS* THE SEED THAT CALLED ME HERE, FROM ACROSS THE SEA...

...ITS POWER EMBRACES THE WORLD--

--AND IT'S NOT LETTING GO.

JUST THE THOUGHT PUTS A SMILE ON MY FACE.

CRUNCH

CRASH

YOUR POWER WANES, SLAYER-- THE SEED IS NOT WITHOUT DEFENSES.

NO, WAIT--

--SHE CAN'T BEAT HIM HERE.

YOU REMAIN THAT SAME LITTLE GIRL I KILLED.

I CAN STILL SMELL THE ACNE SCRUB.

NO! WE DON'T WANT TO HURT THE SEED--

--MASTER. LET US HELP YOU PROTECT IT.

HE'S RIGHT. THE SEED IS BUFFY KRYPTONITE.

SHE'S GOTTA GET UPSTAIRS WHERE SHE CAN STILL DO SOME GOOD.

BUFFY--

YOU LOOKED ALL OVER EUROPE FOR THIS?

ONCE I UNDERSTOOD THAT TWILIGHT WAS UPON US, I KNEW THE SEED WAS REAL.

THE HELLMOUTH NEVER OCCURRED TO ME, BUT IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.

OF COURSE A GREATER POWER LAY BEHIND ALL THE TROUBLE--

IT CAN KILL ME?

IT CAN KILL ANGEL?

BUFFY, YOU--YOU MUST UNDERSTAND.

THE PROPHECY OF TWILIGHT WAS UNCLEAR--BUT TERRIFYING--

I GET IT.

ALL THIS STARTED WHEN WE SHARED THE POWER. WE CHANGED THE WORLD...

...BOUND TO BE SOME CASUALTIES.

WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME FOR ME.

"IT'S WHAT WE DO."

STAND UP.

FLY.

"THIS IS @#$*#!

"SUPREME HERO, MY @$$--"

"HIS MAJESTY" IS JUST ANOTHER WORKER DRONE FOR A QUEEN BEE. €!#$ PROBABLY HAS A WHOLE DRONE AR--

--RRRK!

SHRACK

WHY THE HELL DIDN'T WE DO THAT EARLIER?

WILLOW MUST HAVE DROPPED THE SEAL. EVEN AS A RAT I HAD BETTER FOCUS.

NOW LET'S GET YOU HEALED UP AND--

HANDS OFF!

THEY'VE GOT MEDICS ON THE GROUND--IF I NEVER SEE YOU TWO AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON.

STRATEGIC TARGET TO GUARD...OR BIG BATTLE TO BATTLE.

WE'VE GOT TWO PLACES TO BE. LUCKILY THERE'RE THREE OF US.

I'M OF MORE USE OUT OF THE DAYLIGHT, PET.

I WON'T BE OF MUCH USE IN EITHER EVENT.

GILES, NO. I NEED--

IF WILLOW'S RIGHT, AND YOUR... SUPERPOWERS RETURN NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAY FROM THE SEED, I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH YOU.

SPIKE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO.

YOU CAN STAY.

THIS MAY BE SUNNYDALE, BUT WE'RE NOT RUNNING ROUND CEMETERIES ANYMORE, BUFFY. YOU'RE NOT THAT GIRL.

YOU'VE BECOME SOMETHING I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED--

GILES--THESE POWERS--

I DON'T MEAN THE POWERS.

BUT YOU MUST PUT THOSE POWERS TO USE NOW. AND I *CAN* HELP, BUT NOT HERE.

I'LL SEE YOU WHEN THIS IS OVER--

THEN GO, YE GREAT BLOODY GIT--!

I NEED SOME HELP--!

OH CRAP.

YOU HAVE INJURED? SET HER DOWN.

WHERE ARE YOUR PALS?

THE LOVELY COUPLE?

OW!

THEIR METHODS DON'T FIT WITH THE UNITED STATES' AGENDA IN THIS CONFLICT.

GENERAL, HE'S STABLE--I'D BETTER LOOK--

I GOT THIS.

OH, JESUS. WHAT DID THIS TO YOU?

BAD GUYS.

YEAH, BAD GUYS.

THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

YOU SEEM LIKE A NORMAL GUY--COULD EVEN BE MISTAKEN FOR A SOLDIER--

--BUT *YOU'RE* NOT A SLAYER, ARE YOU, HONEY? NOT WITH THIS BRUISING.

OUR INTEL SAYS THERE'S A WAY TO END ALL THIS, YOU KNOW.

THERE'S SOMETHING HERE. ALL WE GOTTA DO IS DESTROY IT--

--ALL THIS FIGHTING ENDS.

THAT'S WHY YOUR FRIENDS SHOT DOWN THERE, RIGHT?

BUT THEY WANNA *PROTECT* IT, DON'T THEY?

SON, BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND THE TEMPTATION OF POWER--

"--BUT ARE THEY SO ADDICTED TO IT, THEY WANT ALL *THIS* TOO?"

AWAKE IN PEACE! YOUR EYES THAT DART THE RAYS OF THE SUN, WHOSE DIVINE POWER IS GREAT ON THE HEAD OF THE GODDESS!

YOUR HEART THAT IS THE BEAT OF LIFE, THAT GIVES LIFE TO ALL!

THE QUEEN OF EARTH, UNDYING--

--THE REGENT IN THE WEST AND IN THE EAST, THE DIVINE MOTHER WHO ASCENDS TO THE THRONE--

LET YOUR SWORN PROTECTOR STAND AGAINST YOUR ENEMIES--

"--KEEPING EVIL FROM THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO YOU!"

NOT SAYING I'M NOT HAVING FUN, PET, BUT--

SKRREEEEE REEEEEE

--WHAT THE HELL DO WE DO WITH *THIS?*

BURST

ANGEL.

RIGHT THEN...

THOK

WHAM

ANGELUS!

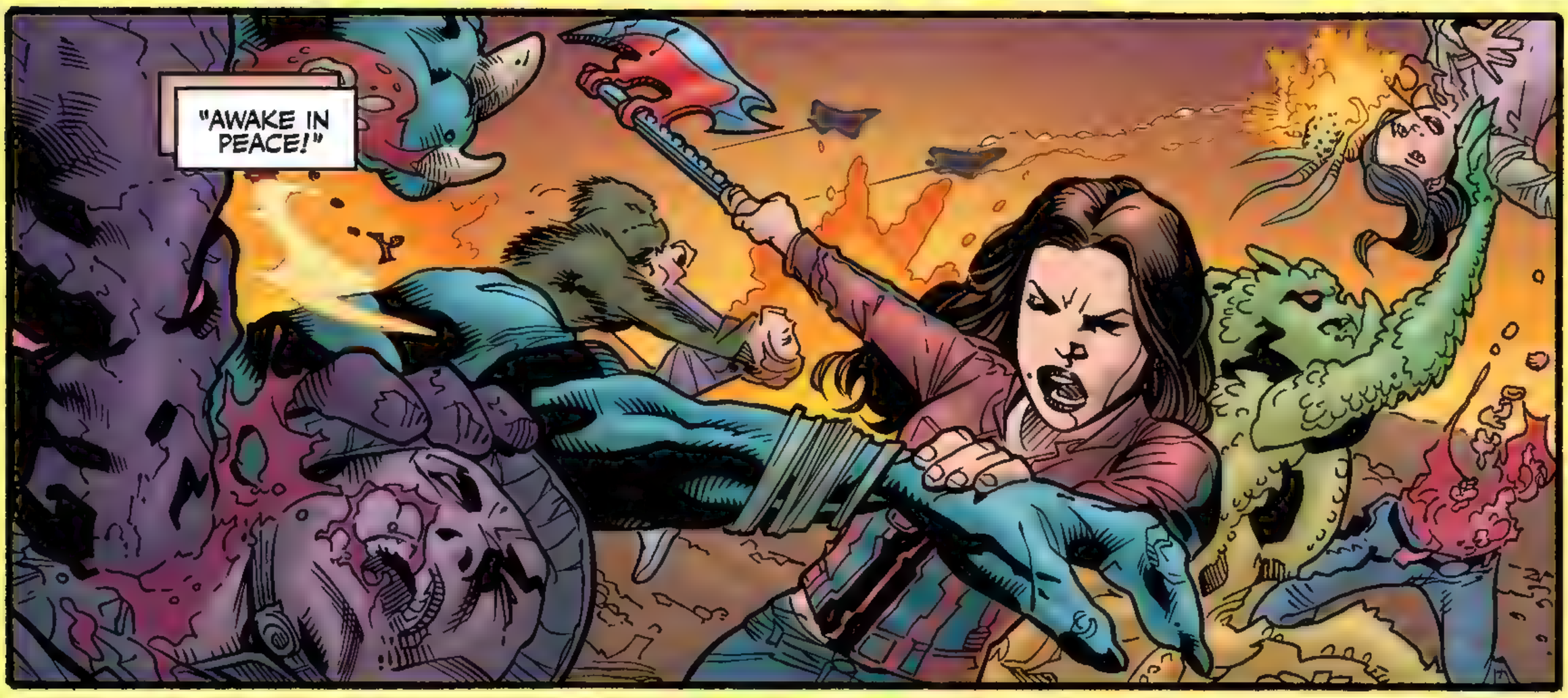
WAP

NO.

TWILIGHT.

LAST GLEAMING

PART FOUR



YOUR EYES THAT DART THE RAYS OF THE SUN--

"--WHOSE DIVINE POWER IS GREAT ON THE HEAD OF THE GODDESS!"

IT'S DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE.

AAGH!

NOW WE CAN HURT EACH OTHER.

FINALLY CHOSEN A SIDE, HAVE YOU, SCARED-HAIR?

THANK BLOODY CHRIST.

SPIKE.

THE SUN HASN'T SET.

YOUR STORY ENDS NOW.

CRASH

OH, GOD.

WHAM

I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN YOU WERE KISSING.

I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN I NEVER MENTIONED...

I CAN'T PROCESS IT.

I'VE SEEN ANGELUS.

AND ANGEL'S ATTEMPT TO BE "TWILIGHT."

THIS IS NEITHER.

THIS IS SOME COSMIC VENGEANCE.

THAT I HAD COMING.

BOOM!

LIE STILL, YOUR MAJESTY--

CLOSE THE HATCH!

AH, CHRIST, IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING...

"ANGEL GETS THE GIRL."

NGGH

"OH NO."

OH NO OH NO OH NO.

WE'RE NOT GONNA WIN THIS.

XANDER...?

"THIS CRISIS HAS LED TO MANY UNLIKELY ALLIANCES, BUFFY..."

...I DON'T KNOW THAT THE MASTER IS ANY WORSE THAN DRACULA.

CRUNCH

"A DEMON ALREADY ATTACHED TO THIS WORLD DOESN'T WANT THIS APOCALYPSE ANY MORE THAN YOU OR I."

NO QUARTER, NO PRISONERS--

CUT THEM DOWN!

LEAH! GIRLS--!

OOF!

LOOK UP!

"MASTER? PFFT. YOU'RE THE MASTER OF NOTHING."

YOU'RE THE EXTRA-LIGHT FLUFFY COATING AROUND THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL CENTER OF ORDINARY NOTHING.

YOU AREN'T REALLY CONNECTED TO THE SEED. THE SEED IS SOUL AND LIFE. AND IT'S AMAZING.

IT'S TIED TO THE HEART OF THE EARTH.

AND SO AM I.

SO, UM, THE CHAINS? HELLO?

YYIIEE

WHOA!

IS THAT A ROOT?

LISTEN UP, ALIEN CREEPS...

YOU DIDN'T JUST ATTACK THE LITTLE THINGS THAT CRAWL ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE EARTH--

YOU ATTACKED MOTHER.

"YOUR FRIEND THINKS SHE CAN WIN THIS FIGHT."

SHE'S MISSING THE POINT.

BLAHP

WAIT-- WHERE ARE YOU G--?

CRUNCH

BUFFY...

OKAY, GIRLS--SIDE BY SIDE, AND--

FAITH!

FAITH--I NEED--I--

CHECK IT, G. SOLDIERS AND SLAYERS TOGETHER--

YES, FAITH--*LEAD* THEM. KILL AS *MANY DEMONS* AS YOU CAN--

I NEED THE SCYTHE.

FOR *BUFFY.*

RIGHT.

EXCUSE ME.

YOU WERE GIVING THESE PEOPLE A BATTLEFIELD LESSON ON TEAMWORK?

EK TESNA AL Y'THANE--

--ESUDA KAI NATHONG--

KRAK

"MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE STUCK WITH BUFFY."

BUFFY? AND *WILLOW?!* ARE YOU AN *IDIOT*, AMY?

ANDREW'S *WEAK*. WHY IN HELL WOULD YOU WANT--?

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER *SEE* HOW THIS PLAYS OUT? I MEAN, THEY WERE WILLING TO TAKE ANDREW...

WELL, IT MIGHT BE *NICE* IF ONE OF THEIR WICCANS COULD HELP ME MAINTAIN YOUR *"SKIN."*

WILLOW WAS THE ONE WHO *TORE IT OFF* IN THE *FIRST PLACE!* YEAH, LET'S PUT MY LIFE IN *HER* HANDS--

"--SEE HOW *LONG* I LAST!"

NUK UA EM ENNU EN NETERU MESU NUT--

--SEMAAIU XEFT NU AUSAR XENRA SEBAU!

GODDESS.

ALL THE PLANES ARE DOWN, KENNEDY. THE DEMONS ARE WIN--

ANDREW!

KRAK

KASMASH

OW!

WHACK

YOU CREATED A *WORLD*. YOU CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM IT.

YOU WERE CHOSEN, BUFFY.

THAT'S ORIGINAL.

BAM

CHOK!

DIE NOW.

GKK

FFFT

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING DOWN HERE?

GO ANGEL! ALSO, TAKE THAT!

I--I WAS--

XANDER-- THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.

THEIR POWER FADES IN PROXIMITY TO THE SEED--

--BUT THE SEED FUELS THE SCYTHE...

SO *THROW* IT TO HER!

XANDER--IT'S ANGEL.

AT THE VERY LEAST SHE--SHE'LL HESITATE. SHE WANTS TO STOP HIM--NOT *KILL* HIM.

NO. DO NOT GO IN THERE--!

I CAN END THIS.

GILES, I'M ALL FOR RASH ACTS OF NOBILITY--

"--BUT YOU CAN'T GET BETWEEN THOSE TWO."

"XANDER...

"...THAT'S EXACTLY WHERE SHE NEEDS ME."

BUFFY-- YOU ABANDONED ME--

--FOR *THIS?!*

SNAP

WHEN THEY'RE ALL GONE, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.

GILES...

BAM

NO MORE.

AHH!

WHOOP!

UHHHHH--

WHA--?!

SPLAT

WARREN?!

NOOO!!!

NO! GODDESS?!

WHAT-- WHERE--!?

"GUYS, WHAT WAS THAT?"

YOU JUST SORT OF FLICKERED, AND--

WE LOST CONNECTION WITH SUNNYDALE...

"...BUT THAT'S NOT ALL..."

ALUWYN! SAGA VASUKI!

WILLOW!

WILLOW--!

WHUH-- WHERE--

"WHERE DID YOU GO?!?"

"YOUR MAJESTY--!"

--THE DEMONS ARE BEING SUCKED BACK TO HELL!

REVERSE, UH, *THRUSTERS!* DAMNED IF WE'RE GOING *WITH* 'EM!

YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR MAJESTY, THEY DID--

SHE. SHE *DID* IT.

SLAYER, YOU *DID* IT.

GOOD GUYS ARE GONNA NEED TO LICK THEIR WOUNDS, BUG ONE.

BUT LOOK AT *THAT*--

--SOMEBODY HAS TO STOP THAT.

"WE LOST--!"

BABY-- BABY, LIE STILL, I THINK YOU BROKE--

KENNEDY--WE LOST--!

"THIS IS THE END!"

UH!

BUFFY...?

Buffy
the Vampire Slayer

LAST GLEAMING

PART FIVE

BOOKS

CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING ELSE?

I KNOW. THIS LOOKS BAD, RIGHT? I'M BACK TO WAITRESSING.

PLUS SIDE, I'M NOT CLINICALLY DEPRESSED OR WEARING A HAT WITH A CHICKEN ON IT, SO THIS WOULD BE MY BEST SERVICE-INDUSTRY JOB TO DATE.

BUFFY

JUST A CHECK, THANKS.

LOTTA CUTE GUYS, TOO.

CUTE GUYS WHO ARE INTO OTHER CUTE GUYS, BUT IT'S STILL NICE AFTER LIVING IN GIRLTOWN ALL THAT TIME.

AND BESIDES...

...WHAT DID I EXPECT?

Pick me up

ick up

MUTANT X

YOU GOT THAT OKAY?

YOU'RE GONNA ASK ME THAT EVERY TIME, AREN'T YOU.

WELL IT'S BIG, AND YOU'RE LITTLE.

IN FOUR MONTHS, HAVE I EVER SPILLED A DRINK?

ACK!

HA!

YOU WANNA GRAB THOSE FOR ME THERE?

LOTTA CLUMSY PEOPLE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

ALL OF THEM GIRLS.

WELL, WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

YOU SUCKED ALL THE MAGIC OUT OF THE WORLD.

I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE--

WILLOW COULD HAVE BEATEN THEM BACK. YOU WEREN'T UP THERE. YOU DIDN'T SEE.

NO, I WAS UNDERGROUND...

...WATCHING GILES DIE.

YOU WANT THE WHOLE HISTORY LESSON? THE ONE WHERE THAT'S YOUR FAULT TOO?

WHERE YOU SUPER-LITERALLY F%$#ED EVERYTHING UP?

OKAY, ALL MY FAULT, LET'S JUST ENJOY THAT REALITY...

...BUT WILLOW NEEDS YOU NOW. MORE THAN EVER. SHE'S LOST HER POWERS.

HOW CAN YOU JUST LEAVE?

MISSED IT AGAIN, GENIUS.

WILLOW DUMPED *ME.*

IT WAS COMING.

SHE COULDN'T SEE IT, AND SHE'D NEVER ADMIT IT IF SHE DID, BUT...

KENNEDY LIKED BEING WITH A SUPERHERO.

A PREEMPTIVE BREAK? REALLY? YOU GUYS HAD MORE GOING ON THAN JUST THE MAGIC AND THE FIGHTY...

BUT SHE'S STILL GOT THE FIGHTY. ALL THE SLAYERS THAT WERE CALLED BEFORE YOU DESTROYED THE SEED ARE STILL SLAYERS. THERE'S NO ARMY, AND NO NEW SLAYERS BEING CALLED...

...NO MAGIC...

KIND OF WENT OFF ON A TANGENT THERE...

KIND OF THE SAME ONE EVERY TIME WE TALK...

KENNEDY LIKES POWER. AND NOT THE POWER TO PROGRAM COMPUTERS.

THAT'S A PRETTY NEAT POWER, THOUGH. MAKE GOOD MONEY-- COMPUTERS ARE BECOMING QUITE POPULAR WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE NOWADAYS...

YOU MADE EVERYTHING DIFFERENT, BUFFY.

WASN'T THAT THE IDEA?

NOT THIS TIME. NOT THIS WAY.

I KNOW YOU NEED ME TO TELL YOU IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, IT'S GONNA BE OKAY. I KNOW...YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD TO DO IT.

BUT THE WORLD IS LESS. IT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT YET, BUT IT'S LOST ITS HEART.

IS THAT WORSE THAN BEING DESTROYED?

NOT YET. EVENTUALLY, I THINK IT WILL BE.

YOU'VE GIVEN UP MAGIC BEFORE.

THIS ISN'T AN ADDICTION THING. DON'T EVEN PRETEND I'M STILL THAT LITTLE GIRL.

AND DON'T TAKE MY MISTA--MY ACTIONS OUT ON KENNEDY! OR YOURSELF.

COME ON, I'M ROOTING FOR KENNEDY HERE! THAT DESERVES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

AND POSSIBLY A PLAQUE.

YOU... YOU'RE NEVER NOT YOU, ARE YOU?

THE FACT IS...THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE.

I DIDN'T REALIZE IT--OR I KIDDED MYSELF--FOR A LONG TIME. BUT NOW...

UHHH...

IT'S NOT YOU, DUMB-ASS.

IT'S SOMEONE I'LL NEVER SEE AGAIN.

BUFFY...WHAT HAPPENED?

DID WE...

DID WE WIN?

HUHH!

POKE, POKE.

YOU WERE MAKING THE NOISE AGAIN.

HAH... YEAH... HOO.

THANKS.

I'M AT THE MELMAN PLACE TILL THREE, SPACKLING DRYWALL AND WINNING BREAD.

YOU'RE MY HERO...

615

YUH-HUH. MINE TOO. OR, BUT DIFFERENT.

YOU WANT SOME OF THIS?

I WORK AT A COFFEE SHOP. I CAN'T EVEN STAND THE SMELL.

AND YES PLEASE.

NIGHTMARE?

WHAT ELSE?

IS THIS THE ONE WHERE ANGEL AND SPIKE GET IT *AWWN?*

WORSE.

LIKE, *TRUE.*

IT'S EVERY MORNING, YOU KNOW--YOU'RE LIKE AN ALARM CLOCK.

I'M SORRY. I WILL GET A PLACE REAL SOON--

NO, IT'S GOOD. WE DON'T HAVE AN ALARM CLOCK.

AND I LIKE HAVING YOU AROUND.

ME TOO.

EVEN IF YOU *HAVE* ABANDONED THE FIGHT FOR YOUR "*SCHOOLING*," WHATEVER THAT IS...

PLEASE. EVERYBODY KNOWS I WAS THE SCRAPPY-DOO OF THAT GANG.

NO! YOU WEREN'T-- *GIANT*-YOU WAS PRETTY DAMN HANDY.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MECHA-YOU...?

BESIDES...

NO MORE FIGHT.

NO MORE GANG.

STILL PLENTY OF VAMPIRES, THOUGH.

AND VAMPIRE WANNABES... THOUGHT THAT CRAZE WOULD PASS.

ARE YOU KIDDING? HAVE YOU WATCHED T.V. LATELY? OR A MOVIE? OR A GREETING CARD?

AT LEAST HARMONY'S SHOW GOT CANCELED.

SHE'S DOING "DANCING WITH THE STARS."

BALLS.

YOU MISS IT?

"DANCING WITH THE"--

THE WAR.

ARE YOU KIDDING?

NOT THE WAR PART. BEING A LEADER.

I MEAN, WITH AN ARMY, YOU GOT TO BE WHAT YOU WERE BORN TO BE. A LEADER.

WITHOUT 'EM, YOU'RE BACK TO JUST BEING BOSSY.

I AM NOT--

PLEASE.

I DON'T KNOW. NO. THAT WAS A NIGHTMARE. IT'S JUST...

EVERYBODY ELSE WOKE UP, FORGOT THE NIGHTMARE. SO I'M BACK TO LIVING IT ALONE.

NOT ALONE.

NOT TILL XANDER AND I GET SICK OF YOU. THEN YOU'RE ON THE STREET, BOSSY PANTS.

I LOVE YOU TOO.

I'M OUT.

NOT A COURT-MARTIAL, IT'S ALL GONNA BE MEDALS AND PENSIONS AND SMILES FOR THE PRESS.

I'M AN EMBARRASSMENT, HONEY.

"FOR WHAT"? FOR WHAT I DID-- *AND* FOR WHAT THEY *FAILED* TO DO. IT'S POLITICS. THEY'RE TRYING TO PAINT THIS AS A VICTORY BECAUSE THEY CAN'T SEE THAT IT *IS*.

THE SLAYERS ARE CONTAINED. THE ARMY'S DISBERSED... WE'LL WATCH THE REMAINING CELLS, BUT MOST OF THEM DON'T EVEN CALL THEMSELVES SLAYERS ANYMORE.

ding

I'M ABOUT TO LOSE YOU...LOOK, I'M COMING HOME. TO CELEBRATE.

IT'S OVER.

PFFT

IT'S OVER FOR *SOME* PEOPLE.

"AND SO I, RUPERT EDMUND GILES, DO HEREBY BEQUEATH ALL OF MY BELONGINGS--SAVE THOSE LISTED ABOVE-- AND ALL MY SAVINGS AND PROPERTIES, INCLUDING THE LONDON FLAT...

"...TO FAITH LEHANE."

"I'M JUST AS FREAKED AS YOU, B."

I BEEN KICKING WITH G. A WHILE, BUT EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE NUMBER-ONE SON.

I DIDN'T COME TO CONTEST THE WILL, FAITH...

BUT YOU GOTTA BE ASKING. EVERYONE ELSE IS--XANDER PRACTICALLY STARED A HATE BEAM THROUGH ME, AND THAT'S JUST WITH THE ONE EYE.

SO, STRAIGHT UP--I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER.

I GOT A THEORY IS ALL.

HE THINKS YOU'RE STRONGER THAN I AM.

I'M NOT BLOWING SMOKE. PRETTY MUCH MEANS HE THOUGHT I WAS A PUSS, WHICH IRRITATES THE HELL OUT OF ME, BUT--

HAH! GOT IT!

--HE MUST HAVE FIGURED I NEEDED MORE HELP. SO I GET THE MONEY, THE FLAT, THE FARM, THE HORSES...

YOU GET *HORSES?*

...AND YOU GET THIS ONE CRAPPY ITEM. YOU KNOW WHAT THIS SAYS?

IT SAYS YOU'RE THE SLAYER.

VAMPYR

YOU'RE THE *ONLY* SLAYER. YOU ALWAYS WERE.

THEN I REALLY DID FAIL.

I DON'T WANNA WATCH YOU BLUBBER, B.

YOUR "EVERYBODY INTO THE POOL" EMPOWERMENT TRICK BROUGHT DOWN THE FIRST, BUT IT ALSO PUT A LOT OF GIRLS THROUGH THE MEAT GRINDER.

I SPENT A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO PUT SOME OF THEM BACK TOGETHER.

GUESS THAT TRAINING SHOULD COME IN HANDY NOW.

FAITH, ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE--

I'M SURE OF DICK. EXCEPT THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE *WILLING* TO HANDLE. *YOU* CAN'T *LOOK* AT HIM. EVERYONE ELSE WANTS HIS HEAD ON A PIKE. ME...

...I'M ALL ABOUT FORGIVENESS.

OI!

ARE YOU PARKED ON THE ROOF AGAIN?

IF YOU'D INVITE ME IN, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO CRAWL ABOUT, WOULD I?

NOT MY HOUSE, BLONDIE BEAR.

I'VE *BEGGED* YOU NOT TO CALL ME THAT. REMINDS ME OF THAT MORON WHO--AMONG OTHER THINGS--HAS COMPLETELY RUINED "*DANCING WITH THE STARS*" THIS SEASON.

DID YOU COME HERE FOR ANY REASON AT ALL?

RUMBLINGS, PET.

WHILE YOU'RE GADDING ABOUT SERVING CRAPPUCCINOS, I'M KEEPING MY EAR TO THE GROUND.

SOMEBODY'S COMING FOR YOU.

WHO?

I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY GOT THAT BIT YET.

WOW. THANK GOD YOU'VE GOT MY BACK.

WELL, WHO *ELSE* DOES RIGHT NOW?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. GILES LEFT ME THIS SUPER-USEFUL BOOK.

LOOK, I KNOW EVERYBODY THINKS YOU'RE A USELESS BINT THAT RUINED EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW--

WHY DID WE EVER BREAK UP?

--BUT I KNOW THE TRUTH.

YOU WERE FACED WITH DECISIONS NO ONE HAS TO MAKE. ATTACKED-- CONTROLLED-- BY FORCES NO ONE COMPREHENDS. AND YOU PULLED YOUR PEOPLE THROUGH.

SO, HONESTLY? F#$% ANYBODY WHO THINKS THEY COULD'VE DONE BETTER.

THE WORLD WAS ON FIRE. THE WORLD IS ALWAYS ON F#$%ING FIRE AND YOU'RE ALWAYS RIGHT IN THE THICK OF IT AND THE ONLY DIFFERENCE THIS TIME IS THAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY NOTICED.

SO THEY JUDGE. AND THEY CARP, AND DEBATE-- BUT PUT THE SCYTHE IN THEIR HANDS AND THEY'D SHAKE LIKE TRIFLE ON A TRAIN.

I BROKE THE SCYTHE.

YEAH, I DIDN'T REALLY GET WHAT THAT THING WAS. THE POINT IS--

GOT IT.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

NOTHING! GOOD TALK! COME AGAIN!

YOU'RE WEIRD.

ACK! OW!

I LIVE ON A DIRIGIBLE RUN BY INSECTS AND YOU'RE STILL *PARTICULARLY* WEIRD.

GOT IT! YOU'RE STILL NOT INVITED IN! BYE NOW!

ALONE.

EVERY NIGHT.

I GUESS I GOT USED TO HAVING AN ARMY AROUND ME, AND NOW I'M...

XANDER... AAHHH...

...THINKING ABOUT GETTING MY OWN PLACE.

AUHH! XANDER, DON'T STOP--

NNNAAAHRIGHT THERE--

LIKE, REALLY SOON.

WAIT... ...NOT THERE...IT'S TOO...

MAYBE NOW.

...XANDER, WILL IT FIT?

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

I'M GOING OUT PATROLLING BYE!

IF I DIDN'T KNOW DAWNIE BETTER, I'D SWEAR SHE WAS DOING THAT ON PURPOSE.

DON'T MIND GETTING OUT, THOUGH--THE NIGHT AIR, THE CITY BENEATH ME...THIS FEELS RIGHT.

FEELS LIKE HOME.

CRAK

AGHH!

YEP.

JUST LIKE HOME.

YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.

DIDN'T YOU ALREADY *MAKE* THAT POINT TODAY?

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE PAYING ATTENTION.

YOU DON'T EVEN GET WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

UH, *EMPOWERED* YOUR GRANOLA-MUNCHING ASS?

YOU BETRAYED US.

AH, THE SPEECH.

I BETRAYED THE CAUSE. I CUT OFF THE LINE OF SLAYERS--

--(LONG SIDEBAR ABOUT THEM NOT CALLING THEMSELVES "SLAYERS" ANYMORE, DON'T WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ME)--

--I DESTROYED THE WICCAN COMMUNITY, TAINTED THE EARTH, LET ALL MY FRIENDS DOWN...

JESUS...

...DO THEY THINK I DON'T ALREADY KNOW?

I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU.

MAYBE THAT'S NOT UP TO YOU.

YOU DON'T WANT TO--

WE *WANT* YOU OUT OF OUR *TOWN.*

I THOUGHT SAN FRANCISCO WAS ALL ABOUT THE TOLERANCE.

I GUESS YOU'RE THE EXCEPTION THAT PROVES THE RULE.

YEAH, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T LET THEM BANTER TILL THEY'VE TRAINED.

OH, THEY'VE TRAINED.

WATCH.

WHHOOOFF!!

I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT GONNA FIGHT YOU.

I DIDN'T GO THROUGH ALL OF THIS TO END UP FIGHTING SLAYERS.

WE'RE NOT--

--YOU'RE NOT SLAYERS, RIGHT.

HHUUUHH...

BUT I AM.

YOU GETTING THIS, BREATHLESS? I'M BUFFY, THE VAMPIRE SLAYER. AND YOU'RE A BUNCH OF WHINY THUGS.

YOU COME AFTER ME AGAIN--YOU SO MUCH AS LOOK AT ME FUNNY...

...THEN I *WILL* FIGHT YOU.

SO THAT SUCKED.

AND AS BAD AS IT FEELS TO TAKE OUT MY OWN GIRLS...

...I KNOW THERE'S MORE COMING--AND NOT JUST 'CAUSE SPIKE'S PLAYING CUB REPORTER.

I KNOW BECAUSE THAT'S HOW BETRAYAL WORKS.

IT SENDS OUT RIPPLES OF HURT. ONES RIGHT NEXT TO YOU...

ONES YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE.

SOMETIMES I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHICH PART WAS THE BETRAYAL. EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR VERSION...

(I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS BOINKING TWILIGHT, BUT STILL...)

...I JUST KNOW IT ALL COMES BACK.

AND THEN SOME.

NOO!!

THE TROUBLE WITH CHANGING THE WORLD IS...

...YOU DON'T.

NOT ALL AT ONCE.

YOU JUST INCH IT FORWARD, A BIT AT A TIME, AND WATCH IT SLIP BACK, LIKE THE GREEK GUY WITH THE ROCK.

AND YOU HOPE THAT WHEN YOU'RE DONE, YOU'VE MOVED IT UP A LITTLE, CHANGED IT JUST ENOUGH.

YOU HOPE.

LET'S GO TO WORK.

COMMITMENT THROUGH DISTANCE

VIRTUE THROUGH SIN

SO YOU TOLD HER YES, RIGHT? YOU SAID YOU'D GO BACK TO HIM AND AGREE?

SAID I'D THINK ABOUT IT. I SAID THAT TO BOTH OF THEM. THAT I'D THINK ABOUT IT.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT.

WOULDJA LISTEN TO THOSE CRICKETS?

YOU'RE AVOIDING.

THEY'RE SO LOUD. THEY SEEM LOUD?

IT'S BUFFY ASKING YOU. YOU HAVE TO DO IT. PROBABLY SAVE THE WORLD.

SAM, HONEY. WE'RE GETTING OUT OF IT, REMEMBER? THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE OVER HALF MY PARENTS' FARM, TRY OUR HANDS AT IT-- AND HOLY CRAP, WOMAN, YOU'RE DRIVING FAST.

I'M DRIVING FINE. AND I REMEMBER THE PLAN. I LIKE THE PLAN.

OUR OWN LITTLE HOMESTEAD, CORN AND SOYBEANS, MAYBE SOME PIGS...

PLANTING CORN, RAISING CORN, HARVESTING CORN. FEEDING CORN TO PIGS.

NOW YOU SAY IT LIKE YOU'RE NOT INTO IT. YOU WERE INTO IT. WE ALREADY TALKED TO MY MOM AND DAD, AND THEN WE GOT THAT INFORMATION ABOUT ORGANIC PEST CONTROL--

I'M INTO IT. I AM. THIS ALL LOOKS ALIKE. WHERE'S THE SILO, AGAIN?

TURN LEFT.

IT'S AMAZING HERE, AND I WANT US TO TRY IT, TO BE SAFE AND...KIDS... GOD, BUT, RILEY... IF BUFFY NEEDS YOU, THEN DON'T YOU KIND OF NEED TO SAVE THE PLANET SO THAT WE CAN PUT PIECES OF CORN INTO IT SO WE CAN TAKE PIECES OF CORN OUT OF IT?

THIS IS IT.

SOMEONE ELSE CAN HELP HER. I'M READY TO STOP ALL THIS AND START A FAMILY.

AGAIN, EASIER WITH A PLANET UNDER US.

AND, LIKE, PERSONALLY, SAM? MOST WIVES...I MEAN, MOST WIVES--

WHAT-- DON'T PUSH THEIR HUSBANDS AT THEIR EXES? THAT'S *GOOD*, BABY. IT MEANS I'M SECURE. I KNOW YOU'RE MINE.

YEAH, OKAY. WE CAN TALK ABOUT THIS LATER. LET'S GET INTO THE SILO.

FINE. LEAD THE WAY. HOW DO WE GET IN? PUNCH THROUGH THE HARD SHELL, RAPPEL DOWN?

OR MAYBE THE GENERAL WILL LET US IN.

ARE YOU HERE?

I'M HERE.

I HATE THIS.

A MASK LIKE THAT IS GONNA FLATTEN THE HAIR, ANGEL. CAN'T BE AVOIDED.

NOT JUST THAT. ALTHOUGH, YES.

I HATE IT ALL, WHISTLER.

I HATE THE PLAN.

TOO BAD IT'S THE ONLY THING WITH A CHANCE OF WORKING THEN, HUH?

WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A PLAN FOR THIS. SO WE JUST CLEARED EVERYONE OUT WHEN IT STARTED ACTING UP.

GOOD POLICY FOR MISSILES, SIR.

AT FIRST WE JUST NOTICED THAT THE MISSILE WAS SHOWING MORE ACTIVE TIME THAN THE MAIN CONTROLLER WAS.

SO YOU FIGURED SOME OTHER COMPUTER WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE MISSILE.

THAT'S WHAT WE FIGURED. THAT OR A GLITCH. THE TECHNOLOGY IN THESE MISSILES GOES BACK A WAYS--HELL, THE WHOLE MISSILE PROGRAM IS OLDER'N GRIT. PEOPLE THINK THESE OLD ONES HAVE BEEN ABANDONED, AND WE JUST LET 'EM THINK THAT.

MAKES TROUBLE-SHOOTING HARD.

'S WHY WE SENT FOR HELP.

WE'RE NOT REALLY *GEEK SQUAD* GUYS.

WELL, THE OLD BOYS IN THE FIVE-SIDED BUILDING SWEAR BY YOU, AND YOU WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

YOU KEEP IT LOADED WITH FUEL?

HELL, NO. IT TAKES A CRYOGENIC LIQUID FUEL. IT'S AUTOMATICALLY TRIGGERED TO FUEL UP BEFORE A LAUNCH. PUT THE FUEL IN EARLY AND THE WHOLE THING WOULD BE...

REALLY REALLY COLD?

IT'S FUELED ITSELF UP. WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?

I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE, SIR. MY WIFE AND I WILL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

YOU'RE SCARED OF QUITTING.

WHAT?!

YOU'RE SCARED OF QUITTING.

QUITTING THIS, THE EXCITEMENT OF BEING THE OPERATIVES WHO GET CALLED WHEN A MISSILE ACTS UP.

OH. I THOUGHT YOU SAID SOMETHING ELSE.

WHAT DID YOU THINK I SAID?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID I WAS SCARED OF *QUILTING.*

I GUESS IT'S SORT OF THE SAME TH--

HUH.

YOU GOT THE ANSWER?

NO, BUT I KNOW WHAT THE QUESTION IS...

WHY ARE THERE TARGET COORDINATES SET?

TRY IT AGAIN.

TRYING!

NOTHING-- WAIT!

858
465
415
488
947
258
158
887

IT'S CLEAR! TARGETING IS OFF!

DAMN! IT RESET!

488
665
015
088
947
258
158
887

WE HAVE TO DISABLE THE MISSILE!

STILL LEAVES SOME QUESTIONS.

YEAH, LIKE WHO'S SETTING THIS TRAJECTORY.

AND WHAT'S AT THE OTHER END.

IF YOU DID IT, WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST STEP?

IF I DID WHAT? OH, SAM...

IT'S A THOUGHT EXPERIMENT. HELP ME VISUALIZE IT. LET'S SAY YOU'RE HELPING BUFFY, SO YOU...

I'D HAVE TO GO BACK TO THIS *TWILIGHT* GUY. AND I'D HAVE TO SAY I DECIDED TO TAKE HIS OFFER. AND HOPE THAT NOTHING I HAVE TO DO TO PRESERVE THE COVER WILL COST MY ETERNAL SOUL.

LOVING THE POSITIVE ENERGY. SO FIZZY.

YOUR COLLAR IS CAUGHT UNDER THE THING.

TWILIGHT WOULD NEVER BELIEVE I WAS REALLY AN ALLY.

WHY NOT? HE CAME TO YOU. AND IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A WAR ON MAGIC. I CAN SEE YOU IN THAT COLOR.

BESIDES, HE HASN'T HAD ANY TROUBLE FINDING GUYS WHO FEEL THREATENED BY BUFFY AND HER GYNO-ARMY, SO HE'S PROBABLY CONVINCED HIMSELF ALL MEN ARE ON HIS SIDE.

HE'D WANT SOME KIND OF GESTURE--I'D HAVE TO SHOOT A WITCH IN THE HEAD OR SOMETHING. I CAN'T DO THAT.

FOR BUFFY? OH, YOU SELL YOURSELF SHORT.

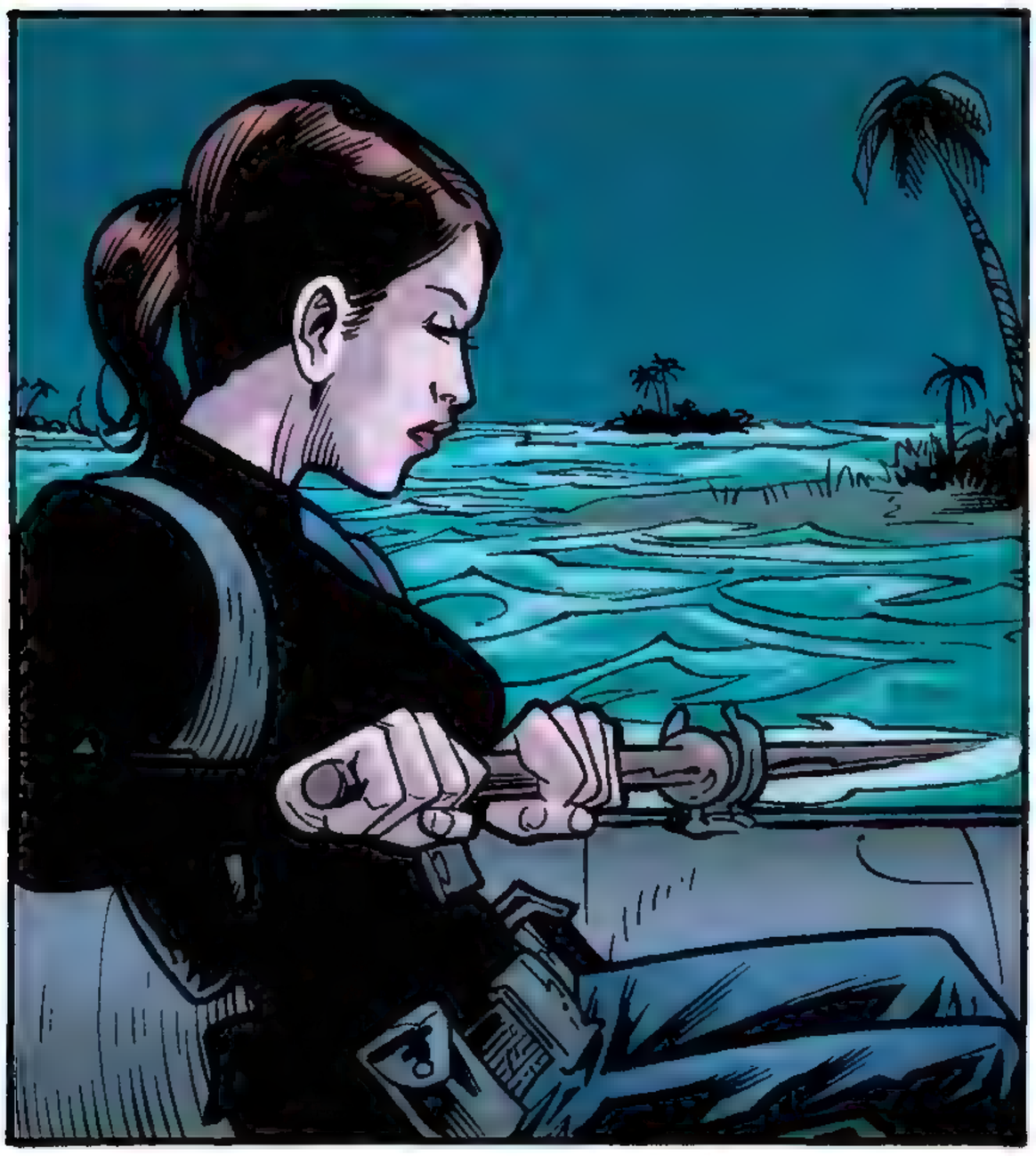
DON'T JOKE. YOU READY?

SKSH

SHSKWXSH!

I'M JUST SAYING I WOULD DO IT IF I WERE YOU. THAT'S ALL.

IF SOME CALL CAME FOR YOU, YOU'D TAKE IT. WOULDN'T YOU? I MEAN IF THE GOVERNMENT ASKED YOU TO DO SOMETHING. EVEN IF IT DIDN'T SEEM THAT URGENT.



AND IF I DO THIS, THEN YOU CAN JUSTIFY THAT DECISION WHENEVER IT HAPPENS. DOWN THE LINE.

TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED.

I NEED TO FIND ANOTHER PATH.

YOU'RE PRETTY FAR DOWN THIS ONE, YEAH? BOUGHT THE COSTUME? THE ARMY? WORKING HER EX? HER *OTHER* EX?

SHE SHOULD BE THE MOST POWERFUL PLAYER IN THE GAME. NOT A PIECE ON THE BOARD. THIS IS WRONG.

YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, ANGEL. IF YOU TELL HER, IT DOESN'T HAPPEN. SHE NEEDS TO FEEL POWERLESS IN ORDER TO FIND THE ULTIMATE POWER. YOU CAN DO WHAT SHE'D WANT. OR YOU CAN DO THE RIGHT THING.

TORTURE THE FORMER CHEERLEADER, SAVE THE WORLD.

IS HE GONNA SIGN UP?

RILEY FINN? MAYBE. HE'S NO FAN OF MAGIC. VERY "HUMANS FIRST."

I DON'T GET WHAT SHE SAW IN HIM.

THESE ARE THE RIGHT COORDINATES...
BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING THAT LOOKS TARGETY. DO YOU?
IF THE GOVERNMENT CALLED ME IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT, JUST LIKE THIS IS, LIKE BUFFY'S THING IS. AND I WOULD TAKE IT.
SO I'M RIGHT. IF I DO THIS FOR BUFFY, IT MEANS I'M GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO DO THE SAME.
NO, NO. I DON'T NEED PERMISSION. I'D GO ANYWAY. YOU'RE JUST MAKING ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

WHAT? WE DISABLED THAT MISSILE!
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE MISSILE IN THE U.S.
MAYBE IT WASN'T SMART FOR US TO COME TO THE TARGET COORDINATES.
SNAP
FOOOOOOOSH

THEY ALL MISSED LAND.

THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOK AT THE ISLAND THEY JUST CIRCLED FOR US.

FINE. LEAD THE WAY. SHOULD WE WALK THE PERIMETER FIRST AND THEN FOLLOW ANY WATER SOURCES INLAND?

OR MAYBE THIS OTHER GENERAL WILL SHOW US AROUND.

THERE ARE LOTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURES, ANGEL. IT'S JUST THAT SOME OF THEM AREN'T VERY LIKELY.

YOU AND BUFFY FALLING IN LOVE, THAT WAS ONE OF THOSE--A LONGSHOT THAT PAID OFF.

AND NOW THERE'S THIS PROPHECY, THE BIGGEST ONE THE POWERS HAVE EVER SEEN, SO THAT'S MESSING WITH THE MATH, KILLING OFF TIMELINES.

ANYWAY, I'VE SEEN SOME OF THE FUTURES. IN SOME OF THEM, RIGHT EXACTLY AT THIS POINT, YOU TELL HER WHAT'S GOING ON. YOU WORK AS A TEAM, FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE.

REALLY? YOU'VE SEEN THIS?

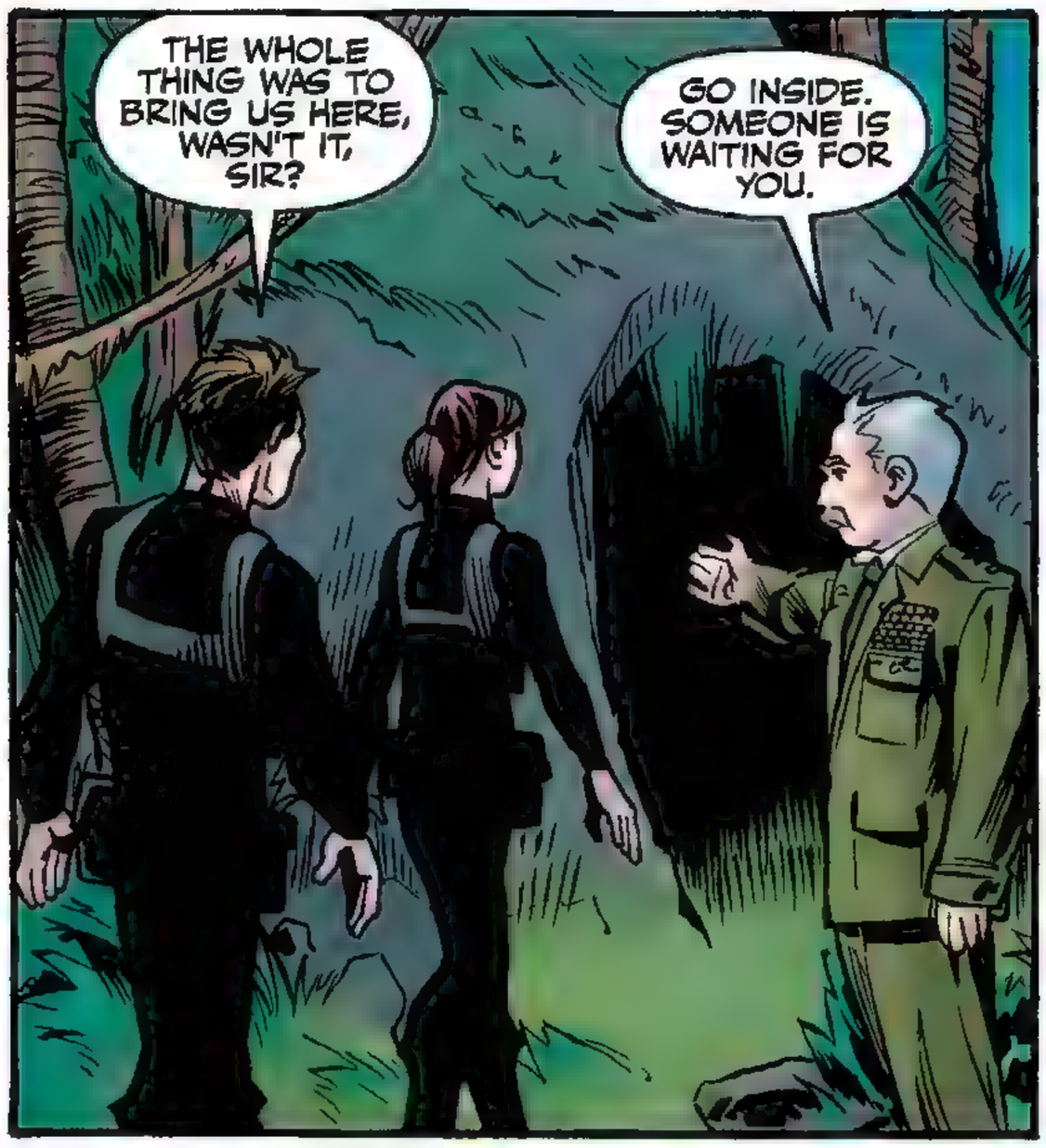
YOU LOSE THE WAR SIDE BY SIDE. VERY ROMANTIC.

YOU CAN SAVE THE WORLD TOGETHER, BUT ONLY IF YOU'RE *NOT* TOGETHER.

YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE YOUR LOYALTY LIES...

...WITH THE GIRL OR WITH THE WORLD.

SO... WHY ARE YOU HERE, SIR?
DO YOU KNOW WHY THOSE MISSILES LANDED HERE, SIR?


THE WHOLE THING WAS TO BRING US HERE, WASN'T IT, SIR?
GO INSIDE. SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR YOU.

I'M JUST SAYING, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP GOING ON MISSIONS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY SOME KIND OF BARGAINING GAME WITH ME.
YOU REALLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS NOW?

YOU HAVE SOMETHING BETTER TO TALK ABOUT IN THE TOTAL DARKNESS?

OKAY, FINE. LOOK, I WANT THIS FOR BOTH OF US, OKAY? YES, IF YOU DO SOME MISSION FOR BUFFY IT'LL MAKE ME FEEL A LITTLE FREER, SURE. BECAUSE IT HELPS ME BELIEVE THAT *YOU* FEEL FREE.

WHY WOULDN'T I FEEL--

BECAUSE I KNOW YOU ACTUALLY *WANT* TO DO IT. IT'S BUFFY.

THAT'S NOT IT.

IT REALLY IS, BUT THAT'S OKAY.

I DON'T LIKE THIS. IT MAKES ME FEEL... LIKE... *TOO* FREE. LIKE YOU AND ME, LIKE WE'RE NOT TIED TOGETHER.

WE'RE NOT. WE'RE TOGETHER BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE. THERE ARE NO TIES.

NO TIES. THAT'S KIND OF...SCARY AS HELL.

BUT GOOD. RILEY. IT'S GOOD. IT'S BETTER. SO YOU CAN SKIP THE NINE STAGES OF SELF-FLAGELLATION AND GO RIGHT TO THE BIG FINISH AND HELP THAT GIRL, JUST LIKE YOU ALWAYS WILL.

...

DO YOU REALLY THINK SOMEONE DID ALL THIS JUST TO BRING US HERE?

MAYBE NOT US, SPECIFICALLY. TO BRING SOMEONE HERE.

NO, IT WAS PRETTY MUCH ABOUT YOU SPECIFICALLY.

WOW.

THIS SEEMS LIKE OVERKILL. WE DIDN'T BRING AN ARMY.

THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I ALREADY HAVE ONE.

THE FORCES OF MAGIC ARE TAKING OVER THE PLANET, DRAWING ANCIENT EVIL TO THIS TIME AND THIS PLACE.

I'VE SEEN THE DAMAGE IT CAN DO.

WILL YOU STAND AT MY SIDE? FIGHT FOR HUMANKIND?

DO YOU NEED HER PERMISSION TO BE PARTED?

NO. IT'S OKAY. WE'RE TOGETHER EVEN WHEN WE'RE NOT.

AND I'M IN.

GOOD.

I JUST NEED A TOKEN OF YOUR FAITH.

"YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHERE YOUR LOYALTY LIES...

"WITH THE GIRL OR WITH THE WORLD."

BUFFY.

THE END

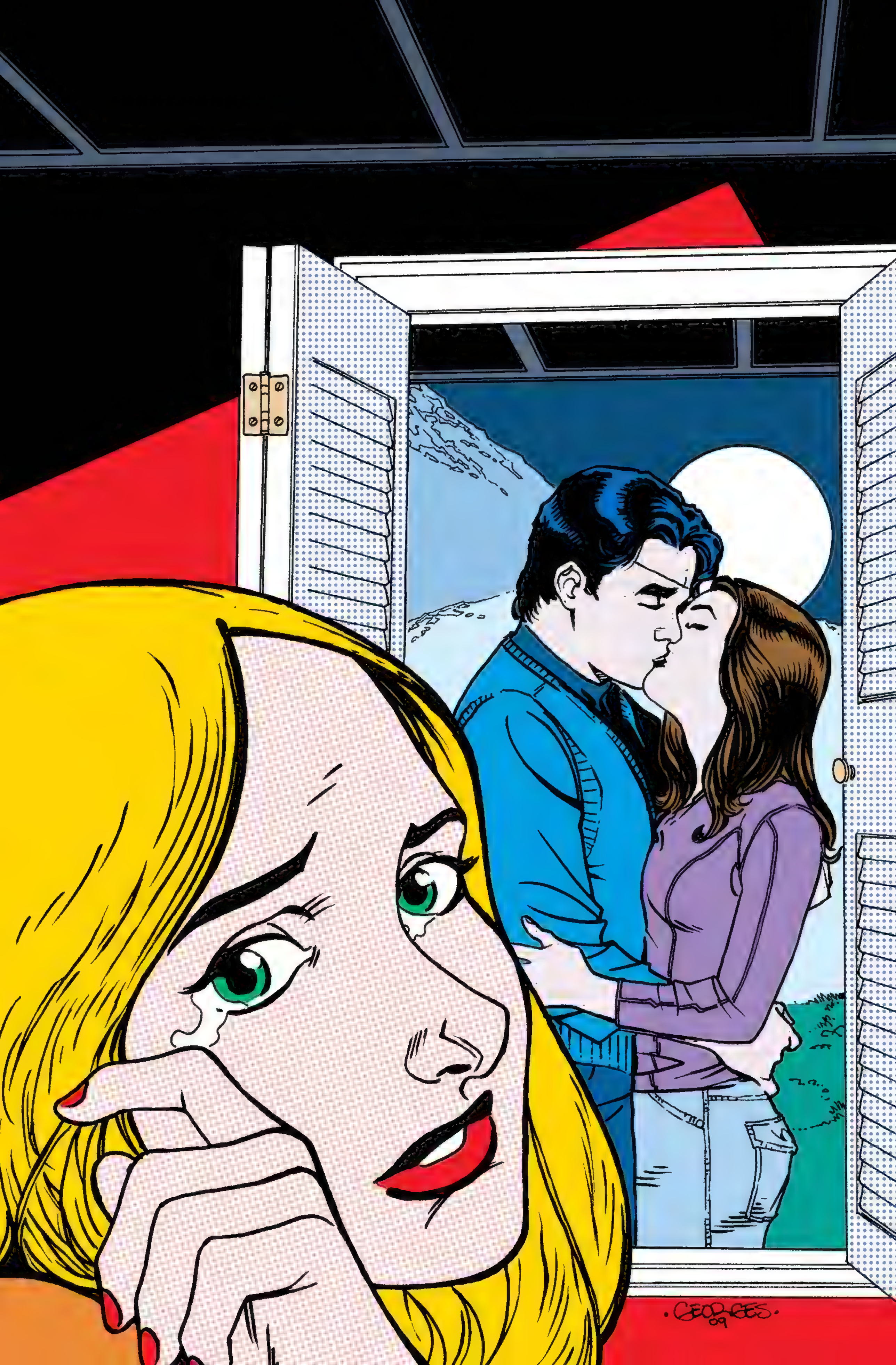
COVERS

BY

JO CHEN

GEORGES JEANTY

KARL MOLINE



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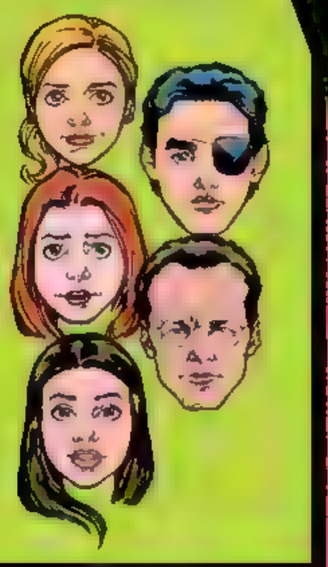

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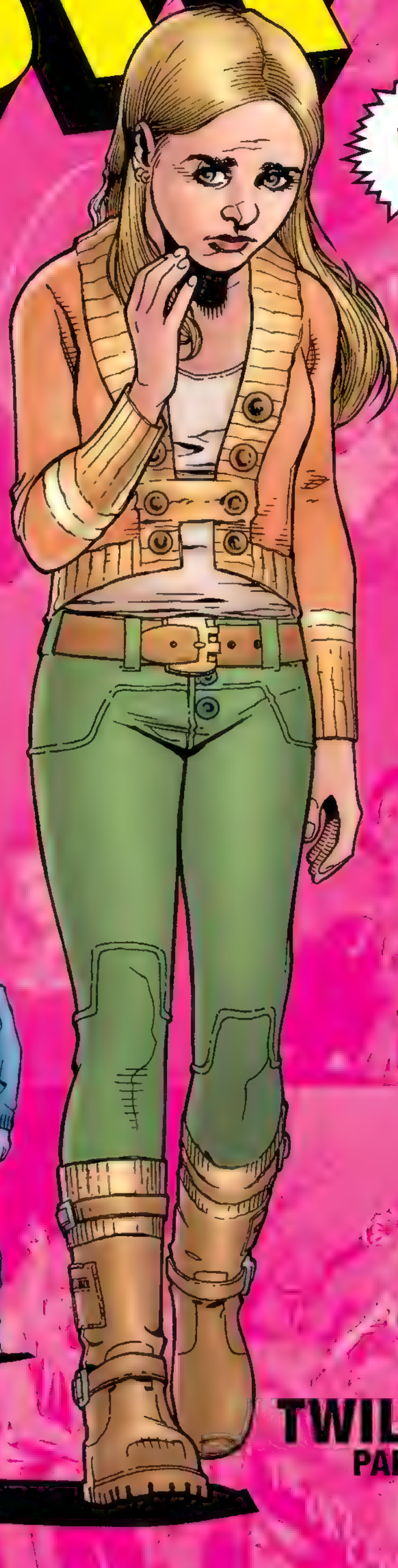
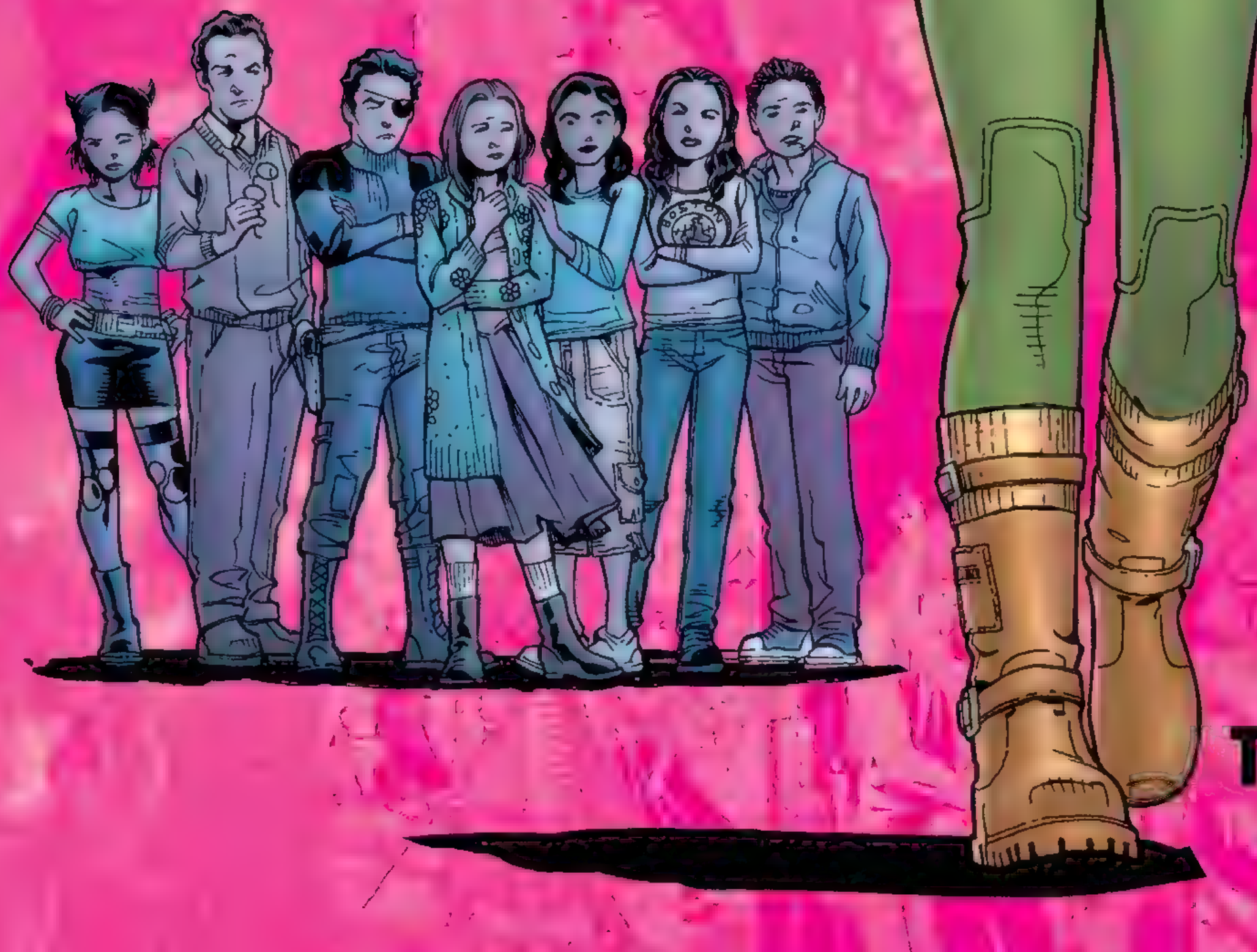
THE VAMPIRE SLAYER!





TWILIGHT
PART 4

GEORGES . 2.09

The Walking Dead

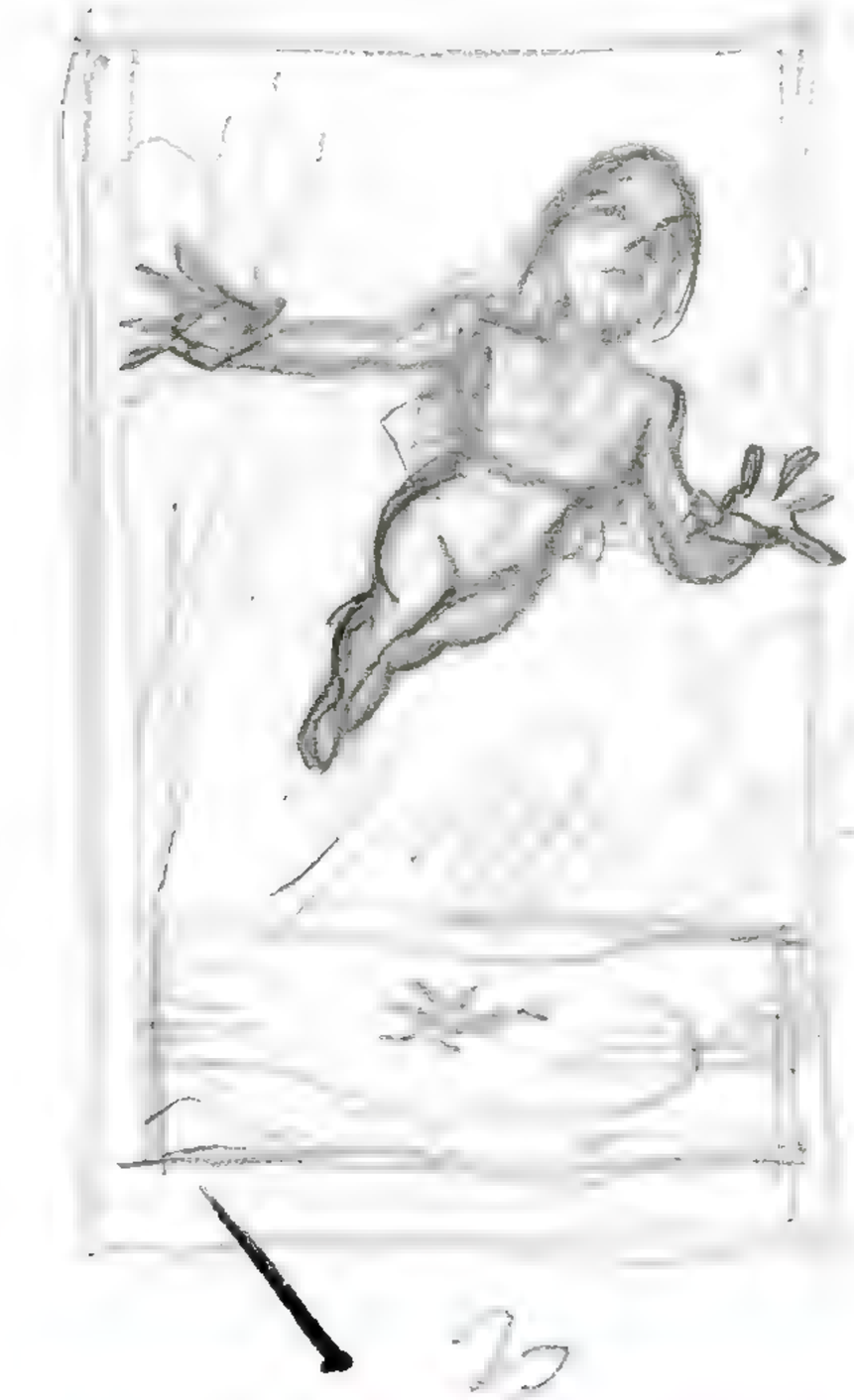
GEORGES
VAES
20 10

WELCOME TO
SUNNYDALE
Elevation 102 Population 32,500

MOLINE — OWENS

SKETCHES

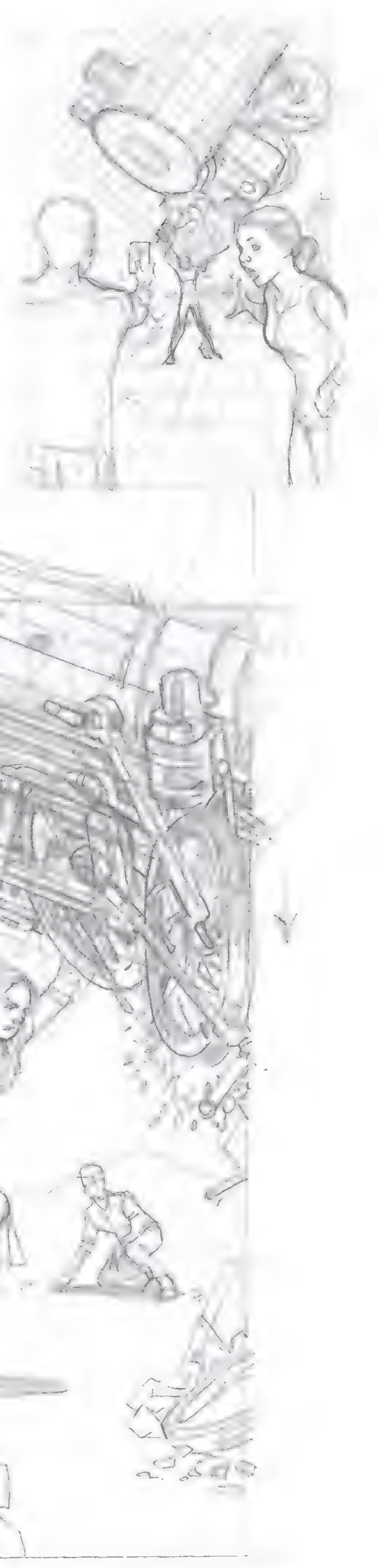
TEXT AND ART BY
GEORGES JEANTY



Howdy! Welcome to the supplemental section of this book. Here you're gonna find some of the drawings, doodles, and prep art for the last two arcs of Season 8. As you can see, it was a big tale that took us, Buffy, and her crew to the end of Season 8. And it's true that all the magic is gone in the world. Let's take a look behind the scenes.

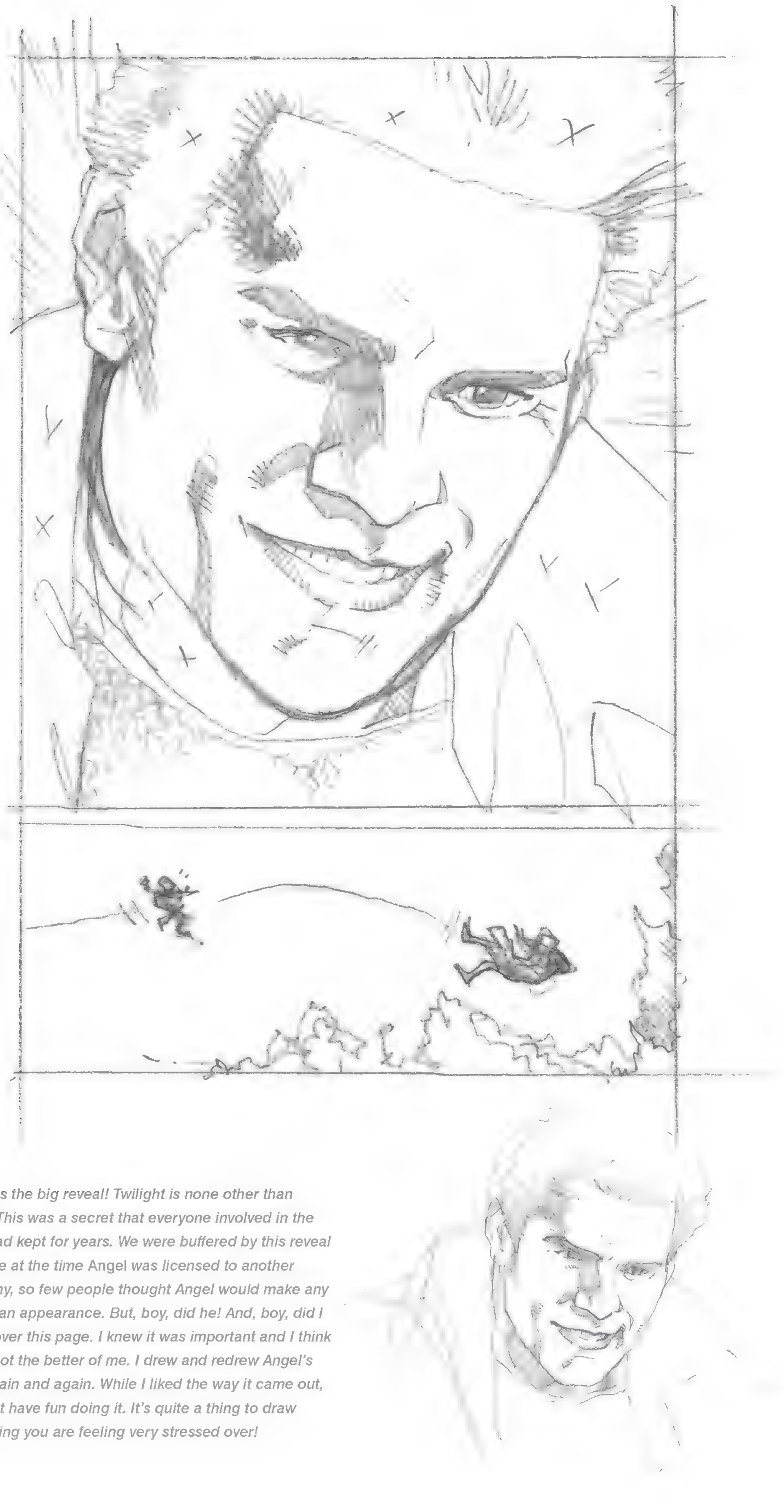
Here you see a flying Buffy, which in itself may seem strange. These are the sketches, layouts, and pencils of the first image of Buffy flying. I wanted to give a dramatic opening to this scene. I also wanted to have Buffy in what could arguably be a costume instead of just clothing. While she is often referred to as a superhero, Buffy has never worn a costume—and that's been the hardest thing about this book, to keep her looking cool while she does her thing in street clothes. I'll be the first to admit, Buffy sure has a lot of clothing for a girl who can't even pay her student loans.

The Twilight *arc was written by Brad Meltzer, who, while having written acclaimed comic books, is better known for his best-selling novels. Brad brought many things to the* Buffy *universe, not the least of which was his enthusiasm. Enthusiasm for* Buffy, *of which he was a fan, and enthusiasm for comics. He even wanted to have his entire four-issue arc made up of homage covers to other comics. As you can see here, we started with possibly the most iconic comic cover ever:* Action Comics *#1, with the first appearance of Superman. In this case it's Buffy, and instead of showing her holding up a car, it was reasoned that Buffy was much stronger and maybe a train would look better—plus she actually lifts one in the issue (at right). I loved the way the cover came out with the train, and sharp-eyed viewers will notice the three cameos of creator, editor, and artist spread about.*



Anyone who's met me at a show will know how much I labor over likenesses. When there is a close-up of a character in the comic, I will probably have done several drawings of that character—such as the close-up of Xander (above).

Left: *This page was a particular favorite of Brad's. He really wanted Xander to embody the superheroes he was mimicking. Without the word balloons it's interesting to guess which characters Xander is imitating. I had a hell of a time doing this because without their costumes, most characters are impossible to recognize. I originally saw this page as being several panels with Xander imitating each one—it was Brad who wanted to show Xander's enthusiasm in one long shot. I think I like this way better.*



This was the big reveal! Twilight is none other than Angel. This was a secret that everyone involved in the book had kept for years. We were buffered by this reveal because at the time Angel *was licensed to another company, so few people thought Angel would make any kind of an appearance. But, boy, did he! And, boy, did I stress over this page. I knew it was important and I think that it got the better of me. I drew and redrew Angel's face again and again. While I liked the way it came out, I did not have fun doing it. It's quite a thing to draw something you are feeling very stressed over!*

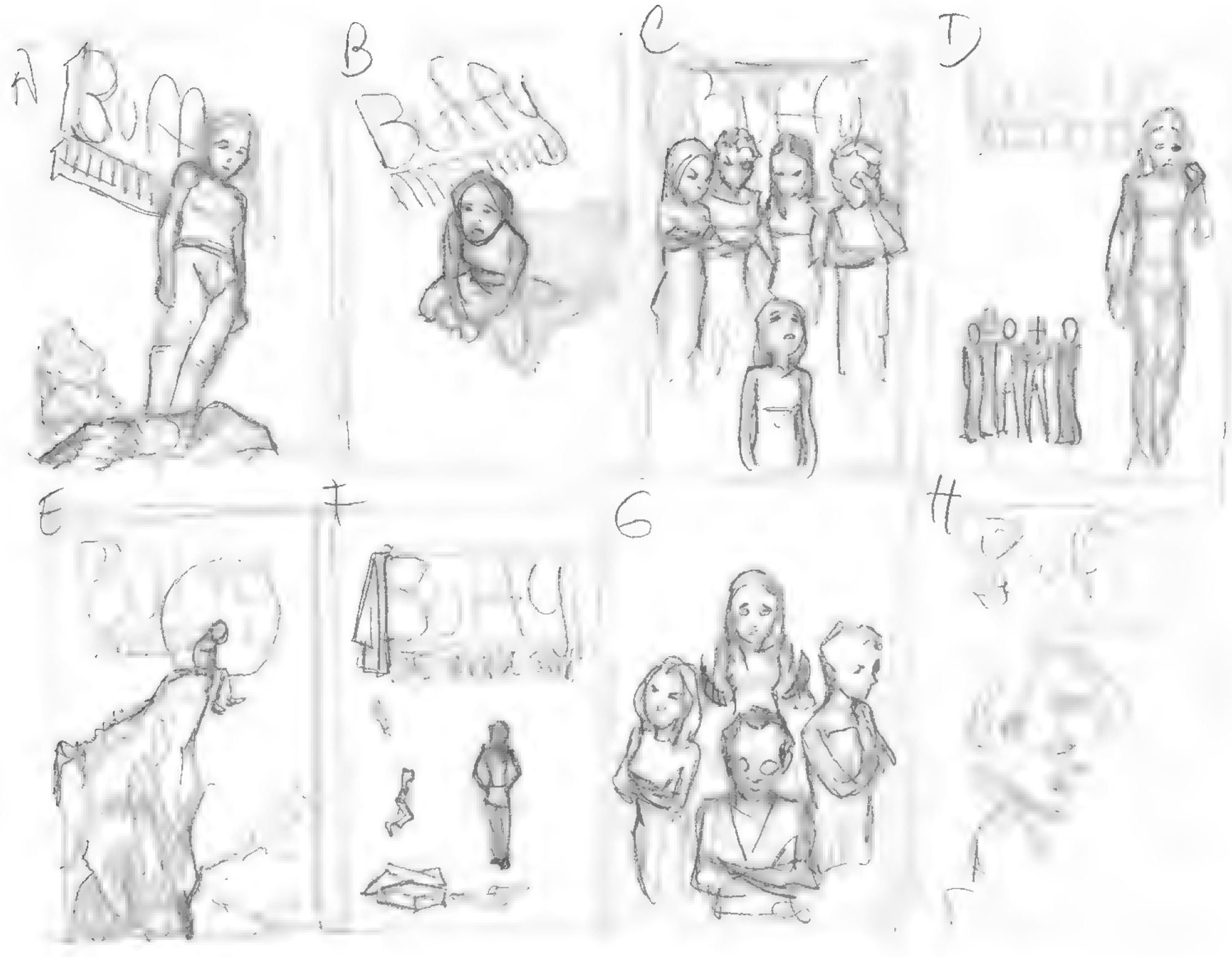
This scene was also important, but beyond that, for some reason it's really hard for me to draw two people kissing. Much less two people who are recognizable. There are lots of little things you have to consider, like whose head is turned which way? How intense is the kiss? How big are the heads compared to each other? Stuff like that. I wanted it to seem that Buffy was just a little more the aggressor here.

The cover to issue #34, rough pencils above, was from another Action Comics, *where Superman was kissing Lois Lane, and in the hearts were Jimmy Olsen and Lois's sister, I think. I thought this cover was way too obscure for most people to recognize.*

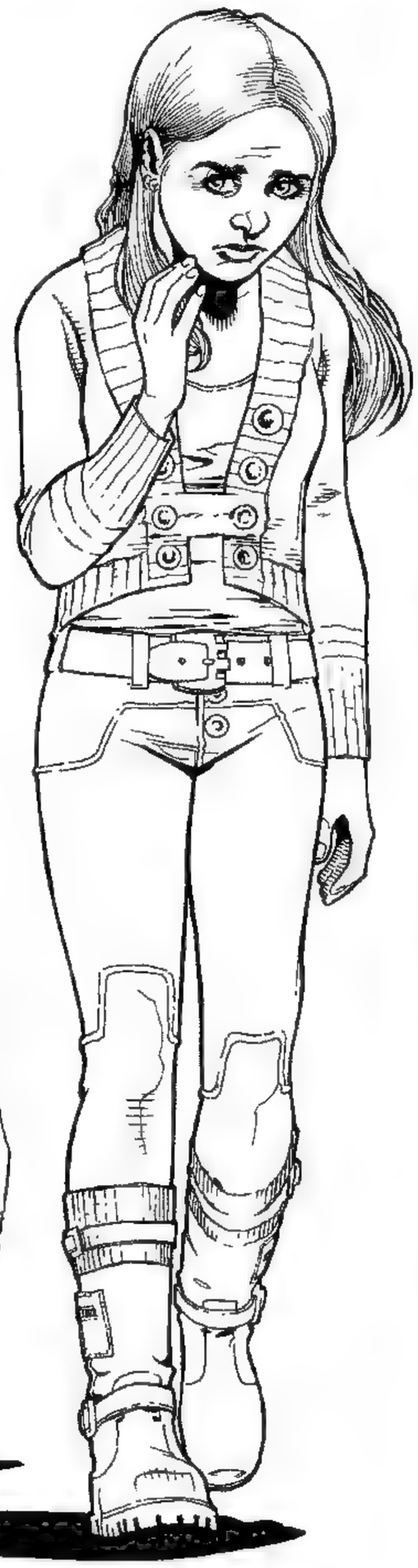
Left: *This cover sketch was more iconic, I thought. It was where the Hobgoblin was revealed to be Ned Leeds on the cover of* The Amazing Spider-Man. *As it was an election year (some would say* the *election year), Dark Horse wanted to have some fun and "leak" a cover that showed newly elected president Barack Obama as the revealed Twilight.*

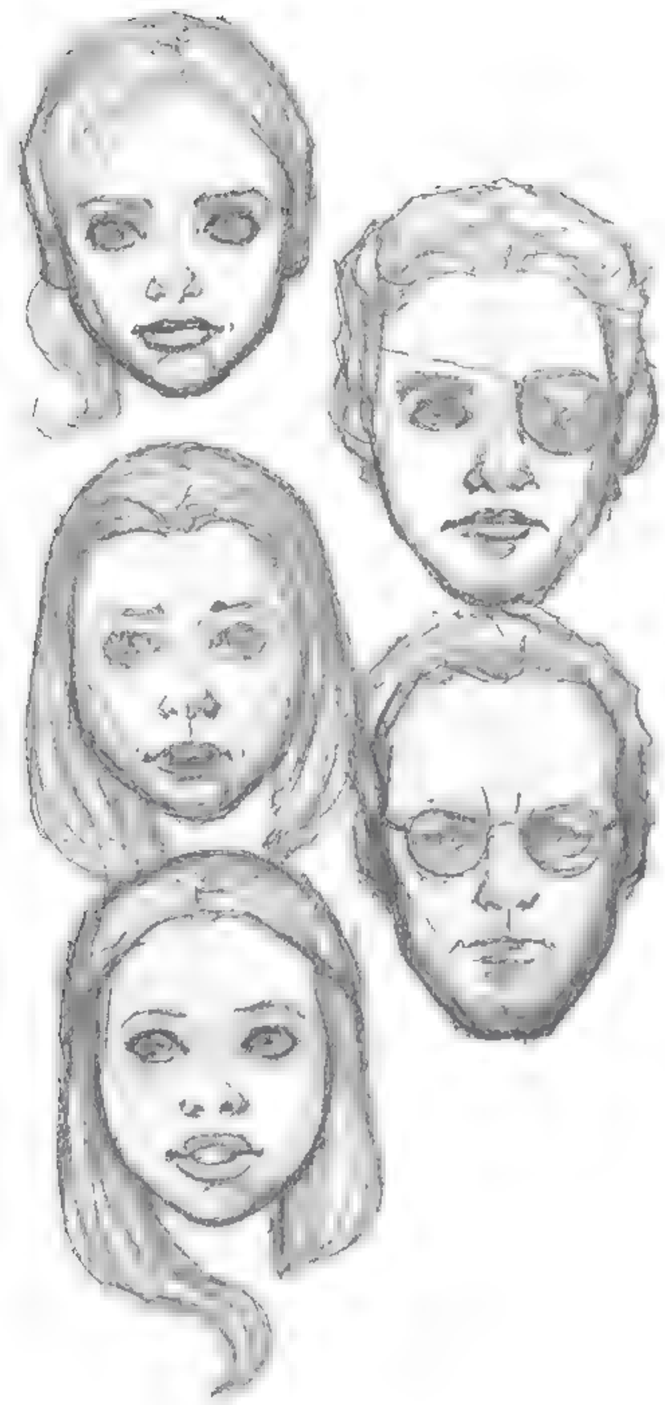
Having created a new universe, Buffy and Angel now stand ready to defend it. Or so they think. The hardest thing about doing this image was deciding what they were wearing. We tried to clothe them in the garb of previous Slayers and vampires that you read about in Tales of the Slayers *and* Tales of the Vampires*. I was never sure if that came across.*

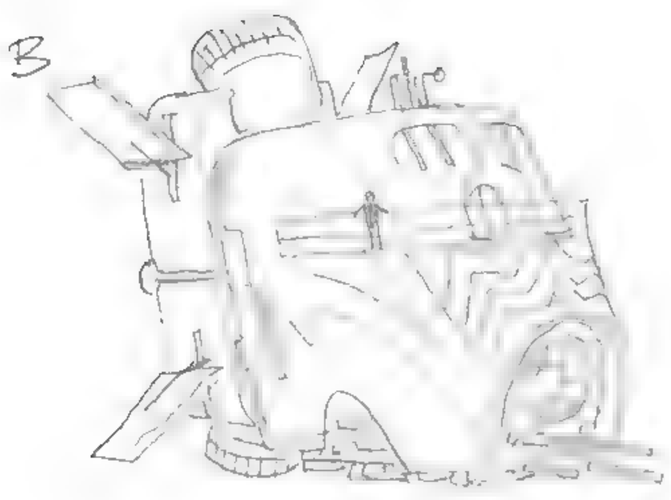
Below is the big double-page spread that had Angel and Buffy coming back to our reality and kicking demon butt. It is tough doing a scene like this because it always turns into a logistical nightmare. Something like this becomes about composition and it is a chore to figure out what every little character is doing and what to focus on.

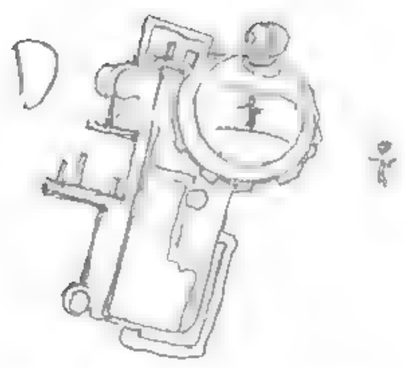


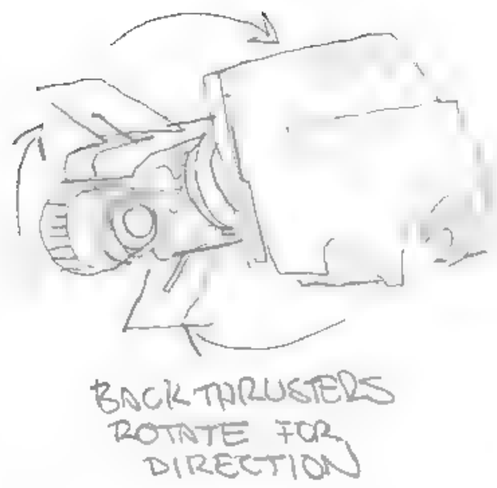
Keeping with the homage covers, we come to the Uncanny X-Men *where Cyclops leaves the team. In this case, Buffy leaves. I can't recall if this cover was handed to me by Brad and Editorial or if it was one we found and agreed upon; looking at the cover ideas (above), I must have submitted a few potential cover ideas. For one idea I used the* Teen Titans *cover where Robin and Kid Flash leave the group. I always thought it was cool that they hung up their costumes on the logo. The faces (at right) were something that I inserted into the cover because at the time Marvel was publishing their books with the faces of their heroes in the corner of the covers, and, since we were riffing an* X-Men *cover . . .*

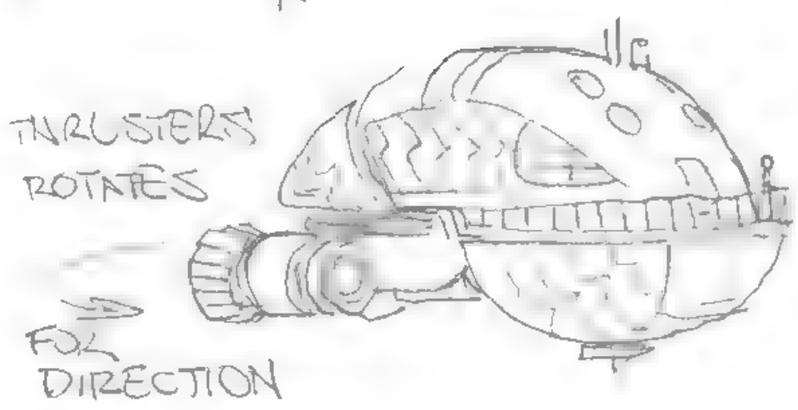


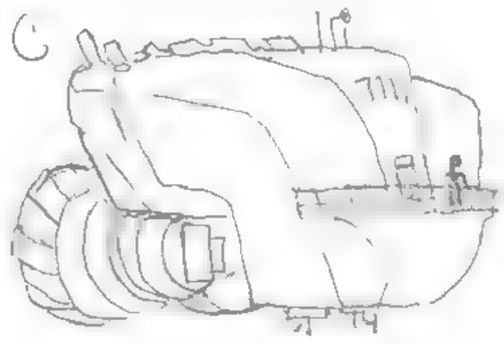


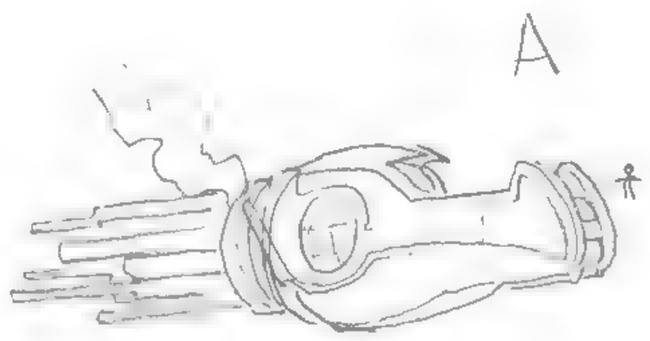


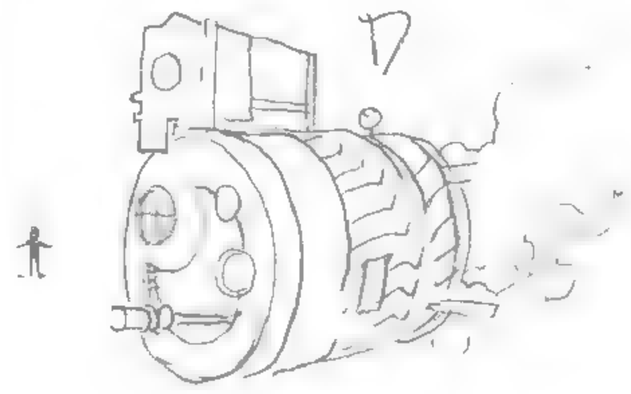






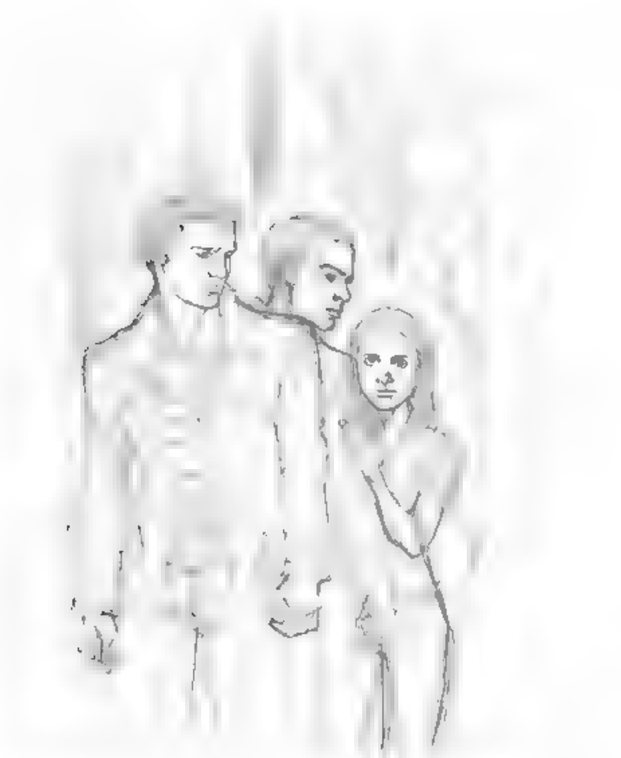






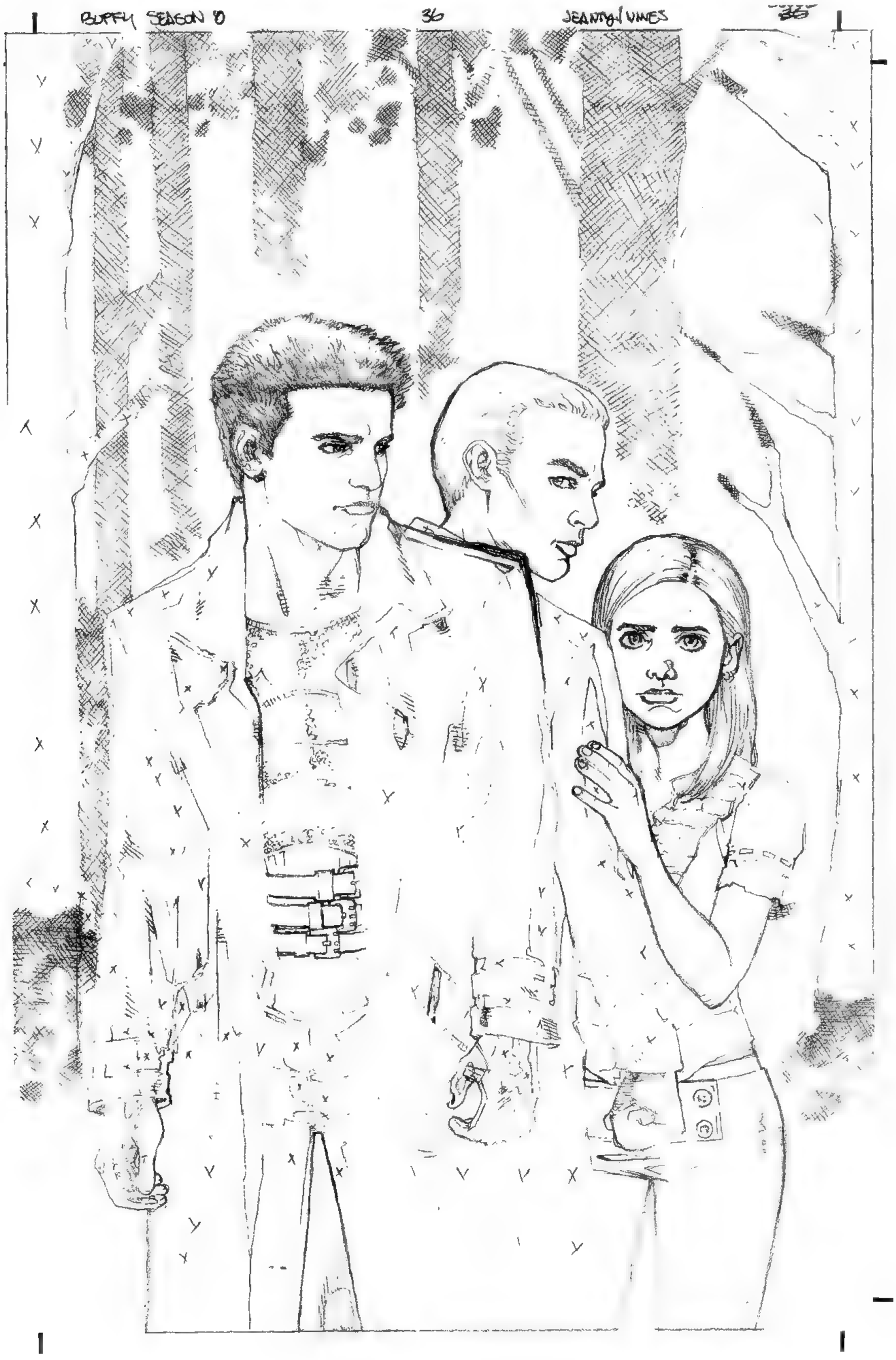
Above: *These are several designs for the bug ship that Spike hooks up with at the end of Season 8. When I was thinking of types of ships, I thought this would be used once and then thrown away. I never figured it would have stuck around this long (through Season 9). Had I known, I probably would have spent more time designing it. If I remember correctly, I was supposed to create the designs with the idea of Disney's* Nautilus *in mind, from* 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.

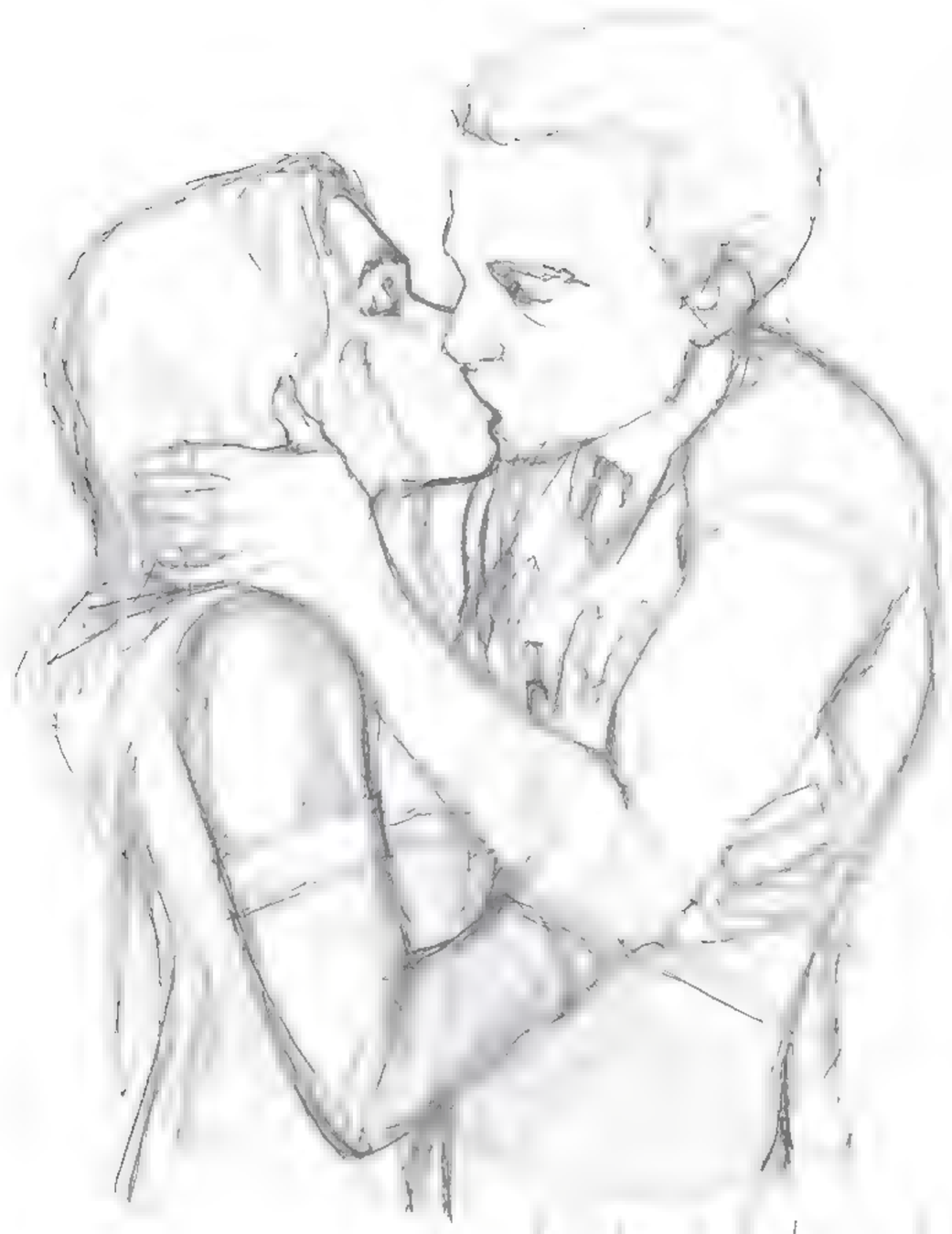
Left: *When Joss saw this layout for page 22 of issue #35, which introduced Spike to Season 8, he reasoned it should be closer on Spike.*

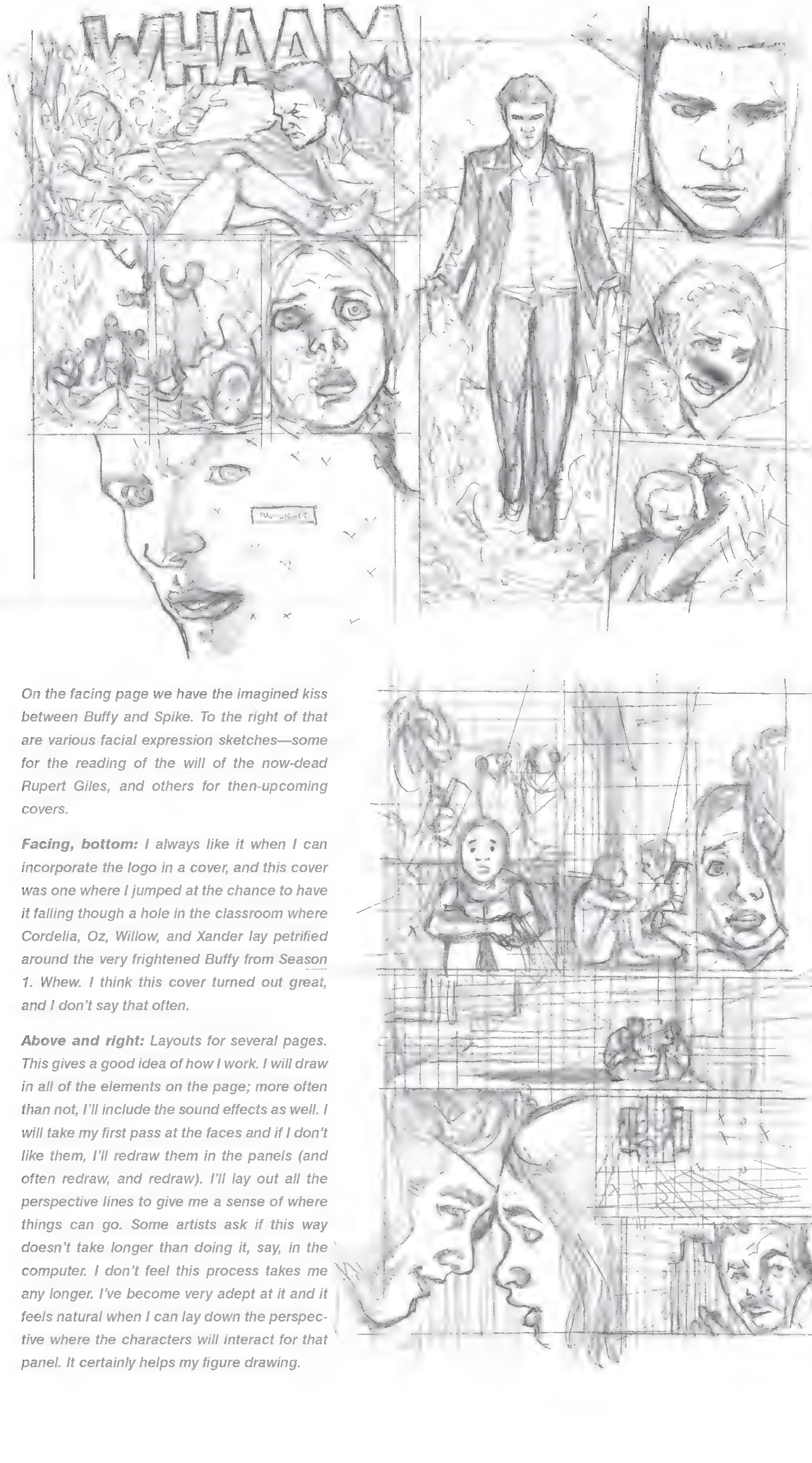


This was a fun cover to do. While not a comic cover homage it was paying a sort of homage to something that you could argue was already paying homage to Buffy the Vampire Slayer. *Joss wanted to show that he was aware of the* Twilight Saga *and that he had a sense of humor about its similarities to* Buffy. *That's how this cover came about, re-creating one of the* Twilight *movie posters.*

Facing: *The first two drawings of Angel and Spike I ever did for the series. Below those are the rough pencils for the reintroduction of the Master. And just so you know that everything wasn't in stone from the beginning: In the printed comic, the Master is with the egg-shaped seed, but originally the egg wasn't an egg at all. It started as some crystal thing that was buried halfway in the earth. It was later changed.*







On the facing page we have the imagined kiss between Buffy and Spike. To the right of that are various facial expression sketches—some for the reading of the will of the now-dead Rupert Giles, and others for then-upcoming covers.

Facing, bottom: *I always like it when I can incorporate the logo in a cover, and this cover was one where I jumped at the chance to have it falling though a hole in the classroom where Cordelia, Oz, Willow, and Xander lay petrified around the very frightened Buffy from Season 1. Whew. I think this cover turned out great, and I don't say that often.*

Above and right: *Layouts for several pages. This gives a good idea of how I work. I will draw in all of the elements on the page; more often than not, I'll include the sound effects as well. I will take my first pass at the faces and if I don't like them, I'll redraw them in the panels (and often redraw, and redraw). I'll lay out all the perspective lines to give me a sense of where things can go. Some artists ask if this way doesn't take longer than doing it, say, in the computer. I don't feel this process takes me any longer. I've become very adept at it and it feels natural when I can lay down the perspective where the characters will interact for that panel. It certainly helps my figure drawing.*

Here are a couple of images of Violet, who was a Slayer in Season 7, played by Felicia Day. It was great fun to have her here, and then later to also draw covers for her book, The Guild.

The cover below was great fun to draw. I got the opportunity to put in every weird creature I could think of, and sharp-eyed kaiju *fans will spot some cameos. I was again very pleased with the way this cover turned out. I think Spike strikes the right kind of cynicism and all the monsters don't detract from the two main characters.*

Left: *We sweated over this "last" image of Buffy for issue #40. I redrew her pose several times, as you'll see elsewhere in this section.*

The final cover of the series (below) was my take on the Beatles cover where the Fab Four are all in black on a black background. I thought I'd dress everyone in black as well. When I did this cover I didn't yet know that Giles was going to die, but if you'll notice, in an eerie way he is the only one who is standing just a little further apart from the rest of the group. Subconscious foreshadowing? You tell me. When we first revealed this cover, fans were speculating that Dawn would die. To fuel that rumor, we blacked her out on the preview version of the image.

Over the vamp (low, about waist level, gnarled hand in frame) to the woman, backing away, a wall behind her.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
(nar)
Not all at once.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
(nar)
You just inch it forward, a bit at a time... and watch it slip back, like the greek guy with the rock.

Panel two:

Extreme low angle on the vamp -- that includes Buffy, small in the BG, atop a roof behind him. Maybe silhouetted?

BUFFY (CONT'D)
(nar)
And you hope that when you're done, you've moved it up a little, changed it just enough.

Panel three:

Thin HZ on Buffy's face.

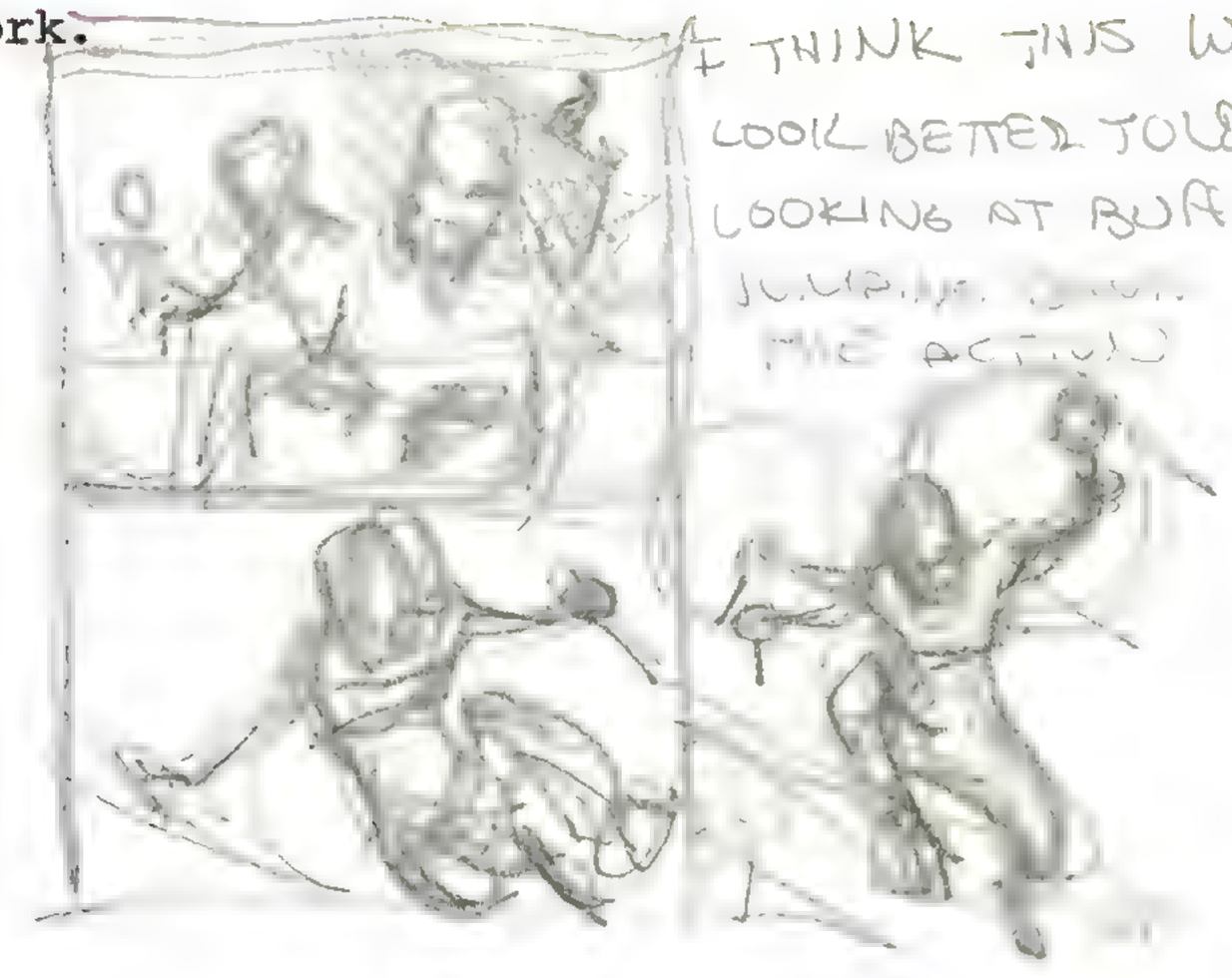
BUFFY (CONT'D)
(nar)
You hope.

Panel four:

The biggest. Buffy jumping down from the rooftop, but batman-style, arms out and behind her -- one hand with a stake -- almost gliding. And we're behind and above, the vamp and the woman below.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
(nar)
Let's go to work.

THE END.



Here is a sample of a typical script page by Joss. I highlight all the sections and then draw a little sketch of what I think the page might look like after I've read it a couple of times.

Here are the last two pages of Season 8 with a very different final image of Buffy. As I've said, I had to redraw this a few times. Joss really wanted an iconic superhero pose to leave with, so I labored to give him what he wanted. This is how I work for every page. I'll draw a smaller layout, then blow it up and put in a little more information, and then light box it full size on the page.

·GEORGES· 9·11

AFTERWORD

So, our endless season ends. We've laughed, we've cried, we've thrown up a little in our mouths, but most of all we've learned. Not you guys—us. We've learned what you like, what you don't, how this TV show translated to the world of comics, and how it didn't quite. We've lost a few fans along the way and, hopefully, gained a few. I can't say exactly how much has changed, in our lives or our work. The only thing that's certain is this: all of us involved in this venture, without exception, have weirder-looking hair.

If you've read this volume, you've got a sense of where we're heading for Season 9. Back, a bit, to the everyday trials that made Buffy more than a superhero. That made her us. I was so excited to finally have an unlimited budget that I wanted to make the book an epic, but I realized along the way that the things I loved the best were the things you loved the best: the peeps. The down-to-earth, recognizable people. And Mecha Dawn. (She has a *tail*!) So that's what we'll try to evoke next season—along with the usual perils, and a few new ones, of course.

Every season of *Buffy* had a different intent, and a different set of challenges from which to build. The biggest challenge in Season 8 was that many years ago I wrote a Slayer comic and set it in the far future so that it could *never affect Buffy's life*. I was so young. But the challenge of reconciling the optimistic, empowering message of the final episode with the dystopian, Slayerless vision of Fray's future gave Season 8 a genuine weight. There is never progress without hateful, reactionary blowback. That's never been more apparent than in today's political scene in America. The mission was to deal with the consequences of Buffy and Willow's empowering spell (the good and the terrible), steer toward a possible *Fray* future without undoing all the good Buffy had done (the girls still have their power), and tee us up for a very different Season 9. Some adjustments had to be made along the way, particularly when I completely changed my plan for Season 9. I changed it for the reasons stated above. No matter how interesting the world stage or mystical dimensions can be, Buffy's best when she's walking that alley, dusting vamps, and nursing a pouty heart. We're not going back to square one, but our square will definitely have a oneishness to it. It should be nice, after the wild ride that was Season 8—not always perfect, but made with love and delight that I think shine through.

The people who need to be thanked really deserve more than just thanks—but we're all too scattered for the inappropriate touching required to convey my gratitude and occasional awe. Scott Allie is why there are editors. Smart, patient, pushy when it's time to be pushy—straddling the minutiae and the Big Picture in a way any show runner would envy. Georges—no book without Georges. If I didn't make the smoothest transition from TV to comics, he sure as hell did. He drew wonderful likenesses that never felt like portraits, and panels that were dynamic, funny, and emotional . . . No one could have evoked the ethos of the show better. Jo Chen's covers make me cry. I won't say more, or I'll cry.

If I start listing the writers, this will be longer than the comic. But Drew Goddard writes the stuff I wish I had. Brad Meltzer writes like he was on the staff for all seven years (and is a nut for structure, which helped more than I like admitting). Jane Espenson, Brian K. Vaughan . . . Wait, didn't I just promise not to do this? Everyone brought such love and talent to the table, writers and artists and inkers and colorists and letterers and editors I've left in the cold (sorry, Sierra) in order to wrap this up . . . The point is, this has been a long, strange trip, but it worked (when it did) because so many overqualified souls poured themselves into it. I'm grateful.

I'm grateful to the guys at IDW, particularly Chris Ryall and Brian Lynch, for handling the *Angel* series with such passion and hilarity, and for being kind and cooperative when I decided the two universes needed to be under one roof.

And I'm grateful to you guys, for coming on the ride. I promise it won't get smoother. We've got a lot of new—and old—friends along, some new titles, and a bunch of limited series . . . It's nuts; I'm exhausted by the end of Season 8. So why am I so giddy about Season 9?

Maybe I'm a fan.

—Joss

CREATOR BIOGRAPHIES

Writer, producer, and director **JOSS WHEDON** began writing feature films and acting as a "script doctor" in the 1990s. He introduced the character for which he is most well known in his script for the original *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* film (1992).

In 1997 Whedon founded Mutant Enemy Productions so that he could coproduce the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. The series ran from 1997 to 2003, giving birth to Whedon's cultlike fan following, and led to a spinoff series, *Angel*, as well as comics series based on both shows. In 2002, Whedon produced and wrote the television series *Firefly*, which eventually led to a feature film titled *Serenity* (2005), as well as more comics. In 2008, Whedon produced and cowrote, with his brothers Zack and Jed Whedon, and Maurissa Tancharoen, the Emmy-winning online series *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*—again leading to a comics series. His most recently produced television work, *Dollhouse*, created with Jed Whedon and Tancharoen, premiered in 2009. He is the writer and director of the blockbuster film *The Avengers*, based on the Marvel Comics superhero team.

Comics written by Whedon include *Fray* and *Buffy* Season 8, both based in the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* universe, and *Sugarshock*, all for Dark Horse Comics, and *Runaways* and *Astonishing X-Men* for Marvel Comics.

SCOTT ALLIE is a writer and editor in chief at Dark Horse Comics. He is the author and creator of *The Devil's Footprints* (2003), *The Fog* (2005), and *Exurbia* (2009), and has also written many of Dark Horse Comics licensed properties, such as *Star Wars: Empire* (2002), *Star Wars: Jedi—The Dark Side* (2011), *Solomon Kane* (2008), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (2010, 2012), and *B.P.R.D* (2011–2012), among many others. Allie has edited an extensive list of titles, including *Hellboy*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Serenity*, and *Conan*. Most recently, Allie has written the two-issue story *B.P.R.D.: Hell on Earth: The Abyss of Time*, and *Abe Sapien: Dark and Terrible* will come out in early 2013.

Best known as a writer and producer for a variety of science-fiction television series, **JANE ESPENSON** first attempted to enter the field by submitting several spec scripts to *Star Trek: The Next Generation* while she was a graduate student at University of California, Berkeley. In 1992 she was given a spot in the Disney Writing Fellowship, which led to work on ABC's *Dinosaurs* and Touchstone Television's *Monty*. From there, in 1997, she became a writer and producer for the sitcom *Ellen*. A year later, Espenson applied for a position on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and became executive story editor in the show's third season. Espenson remained with the show through its final (seventh) season. She wrote or cowrote twenty-three episodes; "Conversations with Dead People," cowritten with Drew Goddard, won a 2003 Hugo Award. *Buffy* also brought Espenson to the comics world. She wrote several stories for Dark Horse Comics' *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* series and the related comics *Tales of the Slayers* and *Tales of the Vampires*. After *Buffy*, Espenson wrote and produced for a variety of TV series, including *Firefly*, *The O.C.*, *Gilmore Girls*, *Tru Calling*, and *Jake in Progress*, before joining the staff of Sci-Fi's *Battlestar* [redacted]. She remained with the series through the remainder of its episodes and two television movies, and then took on executive producer duties for the spinoff, *Caprica*. While working on *Battlestar*, Joss Whedon's *Dollhouse*, *Caprica*, and other series, she returned to the world of comics with *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* Season 8. In 2011 [redacted] consulting producer and writer, and is still currently with the program. Also in 2011, Espenson launched her first independent web series with cocreator Brad Bell, *Husbands*. The series had a successful first season and was followed by a second, as well as a serialized webcomic from Dark Horse Comics, both in 2012.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 8 and Season 9 series artist **GEORGES JEANTY** studied fine arts at Miami Dade University; the pursuit of a career in comics was a logical choice for his artistic talents. In 1993 he broke into the world of comics with *Paradigm* #1 from Caliber Comics, and soon was penciling for London Night Studios. Moving to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1994, Jeanty joined Gaijin Studios and began to work regularly for DC Comics on titles such as *Green Lantern*, *Superboy*, and *Superman*. His first ongoing series came in 1999 with Marvel Comics *Bishop: The Last X-Man* and was followed by work on *Gambit*, *Deadpool*, and *Weapon X*. In 2003, Jeanty left Gaijin Studios and formed Studio Revolver with fellow

artists Dexter Vines, Tom Feister, and Tariq Hassan. The year 2006 brought Jeanty the critically acclaimed comics miniseries *The American Way*, a controversial sixties-era series written by screenwriter John Ridley and released through WildStorm. Soon after the success of *The American Way*, Jeanty was approached by Dark Horse Comics to be the regular series artist for *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* Season 8—for which he had been handpicked by Joss Whedon. Georges Jeanty's run as the artist for Season 8 was critically acclaimed, and the series received the 2008 Eisner Award for Best New Series. Jeanty continues as the regular series artist for *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* Season 9.

Author **BRAD MELTZER** wrote his first novel, the political thriller *The Tenth Justice*, while attending Columbia Law School. The book, published in 1998, became an instant *New York Times* bestseller. Since then, he has authored nine more novels—all of them political thrillers—eight of which found a place on the *New York Times* bestseller list. While continuing to pursue his flourishing novel career, Meltzer branched into writing comics as well, beginning with DC Comics' *Green Arrow* in 2002, followed by *Identity Crisis* (2004), *Justice League of America* (2006), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* Season 8 (2010), and various others. He was awarded the 2008 Eisner Award for Best Single Issue for *Justice League of America* #11. Meltzer has also branched into television, first with the series *Jack & Bobby* for the WB network in 2004, and then with the History Channel's *Brad Meltzer's Decoded* (2010–present), an ongoing reality series that follows a team of investigators who explore the secret histories of rumors, codes, and symbols in the US. Also in 2010, *Heroes for My Son* was published and gained a spot on the *New York Times* bestseller list; Meltzer's first nonfiction work, it highlights real-life people whose talents and virtues he wanted to share with his son. In 2012, a companion book, *Heroes for My Daughter*, was published. Most recently, Meltzer's ninth novel, *The Fifth Assassin*, debuted in January 2013.

Best known for his work in the *Buffy* universe, comic artist **KARL MOLINE**'s first project with series creator Joss Whedon was the 2003 miniseries *Fray*, from Dark Horse Comics, set in the future of Buffy's world. With the canonical return of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* in comics with Season 8, Moline was again brought in to draw a *Buffy*/*Fray* crossover arc in issues #16–#19, as well as a Season 8 *Willow* one-shot and a *Riley* one-shot. His other work for Dark Horse includes a *B.P.R.D.: War on Frogs* one-shot in 2008 and the miniseries *B.P.R.D.: The Dead Remembered* in 2011. Moline has also done work for other comics publishers, such as Marvel Comics (including *Avengers Academy*, *The Loners: The Secret Lives of Super Heroes*, *Spider-Man Unlimited*, *X-Factor*, and *X-Men*).

Buffy the Vampire Slayer™

SEASON 8 VOLUME 4

Following a losing battle against Twilight's insurmountable army, Buffy finds herself imbued with mysterious new superpowers that may turn the tide of this seemingly endless fight. As she tries to pick up the pieces in the aftermath, discovering allies gone missing and the unexplained massacres of Slayer squads around the globe, Buffy goes straight to Twilight himself for a confrontation that rocks the earth's foundations and reveals the identity of the Slayer's greatest foe to date!

Angel and Spike make their Season 8 debut, each with vital information that will ultimately lead Buffy back home to Sunnydale. While the Slayers fight an onslaught of demons raining down on the earth, Buffy faces the ultimate betrayal and suffers great sacrifices to put an end to Twilight and save the world from ultimate destruction. The losses will be great, and when the dust settles, everyone and everything will be different.

"Meltzer's talent speaks for itself. I wouldn't be surprised if letters started pouring in today for him to return to Season 9."

—Girls Entertainment Network

"Meltzer's take [on Buffy Season 8] definitely has the energy that I would associate with, say, Season 3 of the television series, and the art really only gets better."

—Newsarama

"The true star of this series is Georges Jeanty. He so effectively renders these characters on the page at this point that they emote all the idiosyncrasies that the television actors themselves established years ago."

—IGN

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"Joss Whedon . . . brings his A-game."
—IGN

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

SEASON 8 VOLUME 4

JOSS WHEDON

BRAD MELTZER

SCOTT ALLIE

JANE ESPENSON

GEORGES JEANTY

KARL MOLINE

Joss Whedon's *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* concludes its eighth season, only in comics!

Season 8's Big Bad is unmasked! As the story crosses through time and space, the future of the world is changed and Twilight's twisted plan is revealed! Taking the fight home to Sunnydale, the Slayer army faces catastrophic losses as Buffy reunites with Angel and Spike, scrambling to end the violence and save mankind.

This deluxe edition collects *Twilight* and *Last Gleaming*, the final two arcs of Season 8, along with a standalone story starring Riley, and an expanded sketchbook section from series artist Georges Jeanty.

"[Buffy Season 8] continues to evoke the tone and savvy emotional mix of the show."
—The Huffington Post

"Meltzer . . . pulls off an incredible one-two punch, deftly jumping from one emotional high to a drastically different one, leaving readers' heads spinning and me laughing uproariously."
—ComicsAlliance

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